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A
SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY
THROUGH
FRANCE AND ITALY;
AND THE
HISTORY OF A GOOD WARM
WATCH-COAT, &c.





A
SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY
THROUGH
FRANCE AND ITALY,
BY
Mr. YORICK;
AND THE
HISTORY OF A GOOD WARM
WATCH-COAT, &c.
A POLITICAL ROMANCE.

P A R I S:

Sold by THEOPHILUS BARROIS, Bookseller,
Quai des Augustins, n°. 18.

M. DCC. LXXXIII.



*LIVRES élémentaires de la Langue Angloise ,
qui se trouvent à Paris , chez THÉOPHILE
BARROIS le jeune , Libraire , quai des
Augustins, n°. 18.*

ELÉMENTS de la Langue Angloise, ou Méthode
pratique pour apprendre facilement cette Lan-
gue , par M. Siret, nouv. édit. revue, corrigée &
augmentée. *Paris, 1788, in-8.*

Grammaire Angloise , traduite de l'original an-
glois du R. D. Robert Lowth, Evêque de
Londres , avec des Notes critiques de l'Auteur
& du Traducteur, par M. le Chevalier de Sauf-
seuil, *in-12.*

Les Elémens de la Langue Angloise, où la Pro-
nonciation est enseignée par un assemblage de
Lettres qui forment des sons similaires en François,
par Peyton, *in-12.*

Nouvelle Grammaire Angloise , contenant des
règles sûres & invariables pour apprendre cette
Langue, enrichie d'une Syntaxe, d'un Traité
des particules & d'une Table des principaux
Verbes dont les particules font partie de la
signification, par Lavery. *Paris, 1778, in-12.*

Nouveau Dictionnaire Anglois-François & François-
Anglois, par Chambaud & Robinet, 2 vol. *in-4.*

Méthode aisée pour prononcer & parler correcte-
ment la Langue Angloise, par J. A. Dumay.
Paris, 1778, in-8.

Collection des Auteurs Anglois.

The Adventures of Telemachus , translated into
English, by Desmaiseaux, *in-12.*

The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling, by H.
Fielding. *Paris, printed by Fr. Ambr. DIDOT,*
4 vol. *in-8.* très-belle édition.

Sentimental Journey through France and Italy, by
M. Yorick ; and the history of a good warm
watch-coat, a political romance. To which is

prefixed an account of the life and writings of Mr. Sterne, *in-12.*

A Tour through Sicily and Malta, in a Series of Letters by P. Brydone, 2 vol. *in-12.*

Travels into several remote Nations of the World, by Gulliver, 2 vol. *in-12.*

The Life and most surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, second edit. revised by Mr. D***. *in-12.*

The Vicar of Wakefield; a tale supposed to be written by himself. (by Goldsmith) *in-12.*

The Seasons, by James Thomson, *in-12.*

Collection of Poems, by several Hands. Henry & Emma, by Prior. Amintor & Theodora, by Mallet. Porfenna King of Russia, by Lisle. The Traveller & the Deserted Village, by Goldsmith. The Hermit, by Parnell, *in-12.*

Tale of a Tub, written for the universal improvement of Mankind, by Swift, *in-12.*

The Complaint, or Night-Thoughts on Life, Death, and Immortality, by Young, 2 vol. *in-12.*

Poems on several occasions, by Addison, *in-12.*

The Poetical Works of Pope, 2 vol. *in-12.*

Paradise lost, a Poem, by J. Milton, to which are added Paradise regain'd, Lycidas, l'Allegro, il Penferoso, 2 vol. *in-12.*

Gay's Fables & Moore's Fables for the female sex, *in-12.*

SOME
ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE AND WRITINGS
OF
Mr. STERNE.

LAURENCE STERNE was the son of an Irish officer, and born in the barracks of Dublin: but, though nurtured among soldiers, he was a son of the church; and, if we may take the opinion of a bishop on his sermons, not unworthy the title. His great grandfather was an archbishop, and his uncle a prebendary of one of our cathedrals.

From school he passed in due course to the university, where he spent the usual number of years; read a great deal, laughed more, and sometimes took the diversion of puzzling his tutors. He left Cambridge with the character of an odd man, who had no harm in him, and who had parts, if he would use them.

Upon leaving the university, he seated himself quietly in the lap of the church, at Sutton in the Forest of Galtrees, a small vicarage in Yorkshire. Here he waited patiently, till time and chance (which now guide where judgement once presided) should raise him to what they pleased: and here an occasion offered, which made him first feel himself, and to which, perhaps, we owe the origin of the history of Tristram.

There happened a dispute among some of the superiors of his order, in which Mr. Sterne's friend, one of the best men in the world, was concerned. A person, who filled a lucrative benefice, was not satisfied with enjoying it during his own life-time, but exerted all his interest to have it entailed upon his wife and son after his decease. Mr. Sterne's friend, who expected the reversion of this living, had not, however, sufficient influence to prevent the success of his adversary. At this critical period, Mr. Sterne attacked the monopolizer in joke, and wrote « The history of a good warm » watch-coat, * with which the present possessor is not content to cover his own » shoulders, unless he can also cut out of it » a petticoat for his wife, and a pair of » breeches for his son ».

What all the serious arguments in the

* *Vide pag. 183.*

world could not have effected, Sterne's satirical pen brought about. The intended monopolizer sent him word, that if he would suppress the publication of this sarcasm, he would resign his pretensions to the next candidate. The pamphlet was suppressed, the reversion took place, and Mr. Sterne was requited, by the interest of his patron, with the prebendaryship of York.

An incident, much about the same time, contributed exceedingly to establish the reputation of Mr. Sterne's wit. It was this: He was sitting in the coffee-house at York, when a stranger came in, who gave much offence to the company, consisting chiefly of gentlemen of the gown, by descanting too freely upon religion, and the hypocrisy of the clergy. The young fellow at length addressed himself to Mr. Sterne, asking him, what were his sentiments upon the subject; when, instead of answering him directly, he told the witling, that, «his dog was reckoned one of the most beautiful pointers in the whole county, was very good-natured, but that he had an infernal trick which destroyed all his good qualities.—He never sees a clergyman», (continued Sterne) «but he immediately flies at him». «How long may he have had that trick?»—«Sir, ever since he was a puppy». The young man felt the keenness of the satire, turned upon his heel, and left Sterne to triumph.

At this time, Mr. Sterne was possessed of some good livings, having enjoyed, so early as the year 1745, the vicarage of Sutton in the Forest of Galtrees, where he usually performed divine service on Sunday morning; and in the afternoon he preached at the rectory of Stillington, which he held as one of the prebends of York, in which capacity he also assisted regularly, in his turn, at the cathedral. Thus he decently lived a becoming ornament of the church, till his Rabelaisian spirit, which issued from the press, immersed him into the gayeties and frivolities of the world.

His wit and humour were already greatly admired within the circle of his acquaintance; but his genius had never yet reached the capital, when his two first volumes of *Tristram Shandy* made their appearance. They were printed at York, and proposed to the booksellers there at a very moderate price; those gentlemen, however, were such judges of their value, that they scarce offered the price of paper and print; and the work made its way into the world without any of the artifices which are often practised to put off an edition. A large impression being almost instantaneously sold, the booksellers were roused from their lethargy, and every one was eager to purchase the second edition of the copy. Mr. Sterne sold it for six hundred pounds, after being refused fifty

pounds for the first impression and proprietorship.

The two first volumes of *Tristram Shandy* were now in every body's hands. All read, most approved, but few understood them. Those who had not entered into the ludicrous manner of Rabelais, or the poignant satire of Swift, did not comprehend them; but they joined with the multitude, and pronounced *Tristram Shandy* very clever. Even the Reviewers recommended Mr. Shandy as a writer infinitely more ingenious and entertaining than any other of the present race of novelists; adding, his characters were striking and singular, his observations shrewd and pertinent, and, making a few exceptions, that his humour was easy and genuine.

The publication of these two volumes brought Mr. Sterne into great repute. He was considered as the genius of the age: his company was equally courted by the great, the literati, the witty, and the gay; and it was considered as a kind of honour to have passed an evening with the author of *Tristram Shandy*. Though some of the over rigid clergy condemned this ludicrous performance, and judged it incompatible with that purity and morality which should ever accompany the writings of the gentlemen of the gown; these censures were far from being universal, even among the clerg

gy ; and the acquaintance he made by this publication , were in many respects advantageous to him. Among others , the Earl Faulconberg so particularly patronized the Author of this work , that , to testify his approbation , he presented Mr. Sterne with the rectory of Cawood , which was an agreeable and convenient addition to his other livings , being all in the neighbourhood of York.

His next publication consisted of two volumes of sermons , which the severest critics could not help applauding for the purity and elegance of their style , and the excellence of their moral. The manner in which they were ushered to public notice , was , by some , severely condemned , whilst others lamented , that such excellent discourses should stand in need of such an introduction ; and many were of opinion , that he had wrote Tristram Shandy purely to introduce them , as , in his preface to the sermons , he acquaints the reader , that

« The sermon which gave rise to the publication of these , having been offered to the public as a sermon of Yorick's , he hoped the most serious reader would find nothing to offend him , in his continuing those two volumes under the same title. Lest it should be otherwise , I have added a second title page , with the real name of the author : — the first will serve the bookfeller's purpose , as Yorick's name is

» possibly of the two the more known;—
 » and the second will ease the minds of
 » those who see a jest, and the danger
 » which lurks under it, where no jest was
 » meant ».

When the third and fourth volumes of Tristram Shandy made their appearance, the publick was not quite so eager in purchasing and applauding them, as they had been with respect to the first two volumes. The novelty of the style and manner no longer remained; his digressions were by many considered as tedious, and his asterisks too obscure; nay, some invidious criticks, who pretended to be able to point them out, insinuated, that they were too indelicate for the eye of chastity.

He had nevertheless a great number of admirers; and he was encouraged to publish a fifth and sixth volume. Their satire was still poignant, spirited, and, in general, extremely just. The characters, though somewhat overcharged, were lively and in nature. He constantly caught the Ridiculous, wherever he found it; and he never failed to present it to his readers in the most agreeable point of light. His story of Le Fevre was highly finished, and truly pathetic; and would alone rescue his name from oblivion, if his sermons were not considered as some of the best moral discourses extant.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth volumes

have not yet completed that work ; so that what was said upon the publication of his first volumes , has been verified : « Mr. » Shandy seems so extremely fond of digressions , and of giving his historical readers the slip upon all occasions , that we are not a little apprehensive he may , some time or other , give them the slip in good earnest , and leave the work before the story be finished ».

In the above mentioned volumes , Mr. Sterne carries his readers through France , and introduces some scenes and characters which are afterwards taken up in the Sentimental Journey , particularly that of Maria ; so that this may , in some measure , be considered as a continuation of the Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy.

It is almost needless to observe , of a book so universally read as Shandy , that the story of the hero's life is the least part of the author's concern. It is , in reality , nothing more than a vehicle for satire on a great variety of subjects. Most of these satirical strokes are introduced with little regard to any connexion , either with the principal story or with each other. The author having no determined end in view , runs from object to object , as they happen to strike a very lively and very irregular imagination. In fact , the book is a perpetual series of disappointments : yet with this and other ble-

mishes, the life of Tristram Shandy has uncommon merit; and the freedom and sincerity of its author, perhaps, cannot be equalled by any other writer beside the *incomparable Montaigne*. The faults of an original work are always pardoned; and it is not surprising, that, at a time, when a tame imitation makes almost the whole merit of so many books, so happy an attempt at novelty should have been so well received. His last work, however, may be considered as his greatest, since it contains a variety of agreeable pathetic descriptions, in an easy simple style, cleared from much of the obscurity and levity which degrade the former volumes.

As Mr. Sterne advanced in literary fame; he left his livings to the care of his curates; and though he acquired some thousands by his productions, being a character very distant from an œconomist, his savings were no greater at the end of the year, than when he had no other support but the single vicarage of Sutton. Indeed his travelling expences abroad, and the luxurious manner in which he lived with the gay and polite at home, greatly promoted the dissipation of a very considerable sum which his writings had produced, and which might have been a future assistance to his family. This being the case, at his death, his widow and daughter, an agreeable young lady about

sixteen, who had both resided for some years in a convent in France *, having separated from Mr. Sterne through some pique, which was differently accounted for by the parties, finding that their pensions must discontinue, returned to England, in order to publish his posthumous works. Being at York, during the last races, some humane gentlemen, friends and admirers of the late Prebend, took into consideration their disagreeable situation, and made them a present of a purse containing a thousand pounds. This unexpected and generous supply, added to a very extensive subscription of the nobility and gentry to three additional volumes of sermons, has afforded a sufficient provision to enable them to support themselves in their late recluse manner of life, to which they have determined to return.

As Mr. Sterne hath drawn his own character (under the name of Yorick) with great happiness and skill, we will take the liberty of introducing it here, the better to complete our account of the author and his works :

— « This is all that ever stagger'd my

* *A particular and ingenious account of this absurd practice of the English is given in « Col. Thicknesse's Observations on the customs and manners of the French nation », in which many useful hints and informations to travellers making the tour of France may be found.*

» faith in regard to Yorick's extraction ;
 » who , by what I can remember of him ,
 » and by all the accounts I could ever get
 » of him , seem'd not to have had one sin-
 » gle drop of Danish blood in his whole
 » crasis ; in nine hundred years it might
 » possibly have all run out :—I will not
 » philosophize one moment with you about
 » it ; for , happen how it would , the fact
 » was this :—That instead of that cold phlegm
 » and exact regularity of sense and humours ,
 » you would have look'd for , in one so
 » extracted ;—he was , on the contrary , as
 » mercurial and sublimated a composition , as
 » heteroclite a creature in all his declensions ,
 » with as much life and whim ,—and
 » *gaieté de cœur* about him , as the kindest
 » climate could have engendered and put
 » together. With all this fail , poor Yorick
 » carried not one ounce of ballast ; he was
 » utterly unpractised in the world ; and at
 » the age of twenty-six , knew just about
 » as well how to steer his course in it , as a
 » romping unsuspicious girl of thirteen :
 » so that , upon his first setting out , the
 » brisk gale of his spirits , as you will ima-
 » gine , ran him foul ten times in a day of
 » some body's tackling ; and as the grave
 » and more slow-paced were oftenest in his
 » way ,—you may likewise imagine ,
 » 'twas with such he generally had the ill
 » luck to get the most entangled. For

» aught I know, there might be some mix-
 » ture of unlucky wit at the bottom of
 » such *fracas*——For, to speak the truth,
 » Yorick had an invincible dislike and op-
 » position in his nature to gravity;—not
 » to gravity as such—for, where gravity
 » was wanted, he would be the most grave
 » and serious of mortal men for days and
 » weeks together;—but he was an enemy
 » to the affectation of it, and declared open
 » war against it, only as it appeared a cloak
 » for ignorance, or for folly; and then,
 » whenever it fell in his way, however
 » sheltered and protected, he seldom gave
 » it much quarter.

» Sometimes, in his wild way of talk-
 » ing, he would say that gravity was an ar-
 » rant scoundrel; and he would add,—
 » of the most dangerous kind too,—be-
 » cause a fly one, and that he verily be-
 » lieved, more honest, well-meaning people
 » were bubbled out of their goods and
 » money by it in one twelvemonth, than by
 » pocket picking and shop-lifting in seven.
 » In the naked temper which a merry
 » heart discovered, he would say, there
 » was no danger——but to itself: ——
 » whereas the very essence of gravity was
 » design, and consequently deceit;—’twas
 » a taught trick to gain credit of the world
 » for more sense and knowledge than a man
 » was worth, and that, with all its pre-

» tensions,—it was no better, but often worse,
 » than what a French wit had long ago
 » defined it—*iz*, A mysterious carriage of
 » the body to cover the defects of the mind;
 » —which definition of gravity, Yorick,
 » with great imprudence, would say, de-
 » served to be wrote in letters of gold.

» But in plain truth, he was a man un-
 » hackneyed and unpractised in the world,
 » and was altogether as indiscreet and
 » foolish on every other subject of dis-
 » course, where policy is wont to impress
 » restraint. Yorick had no impression but
 » one, and that was what arose from the
 » nature of the deed spoken of; which im-
 » pression he would usually translate into
 » plain English without any periphrasis,
 » —and too oft without much distinction
 » of either personage, time, or place;—
 » so that when mention was made of a pitiful
 » or an ungenerous proceeding,—he never
 » gave himself a moment's time to reflect
 » who was the Hero of the piece—what
 » his station—or how far he had power to
 » hurt him hereafter;—but if it was a dirty
 » action,—without more ado—The man
 » was a dirty fellow—and so on—And as
 » his comments had usually the ill fate to
 » be terminated either in a *bon mot*, or
 » to be enlivened throughout with some
 » drollery or humour of expression, it gave
 » wings to Yorick's indiscretion. In a word,

» though he never sought, yet, at the same
 » time, as he seldom shunn'd occasions of
 » saying what came uppermost, and without
 » much ceremony,—he had but too many
 » temptations in life of scattering his wit
 » and his humour,—his gibes and his jests
 » about him—They were not lost for want
 » of gathering ».

Mr. Sterne died as he lived, the same indifferent, careless creature; as a day or two before, he seemed not in the least affected with his approaching dissolution. He was buried privately in a new burying ground belonging to the parish of St. George's, Hanover-square, at twelve o'clock at noon, attended only by two gentlemen in a mourning coach, no bell tolling. His death was announced in the news-papers of March 22d 1768, by the following paragraph:

Died at his lodgings in Bond-Street, the Rev. Mr. Sterne.

Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him well;
 a Fellow of infinite Jest, most excellent
 Fancy, &c.

Wit, Humour, Genius hadst thou, all agree;
 One grain of WISDOM had been worth the Three!



A

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

THROUGH

FRANCE AND ITALY.

THEY order, said I, this matter better in France. —

—You have been in France? said my gentleman, turning quick upon me with the most civil triumph in the world. —Strange! quoth I, debating the matter with myself, that one-and-twenty miles sailing, for 'tis absolutely no further from Dover to Calais, should give a man these rights. — I'll look into them: so giving up the argument— I went straight to my lodgings, put up half a dozen shirts and a black pair of silk breeches— « the coat I have on, » said I, looking at the sleeve, will do » — took a place in the Dover stage; and the packet sailing at nine the next morning— by three I had got sat down to my dinner upon a fricassée'd chicken so incontestibly in France, that, had I died that night of an indigestion, the whole world could not have suspended

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the effects of the * *droits d'aubaine*—my shirts, and black pair of silk breeches—portmanteau and all must have gone to the king of France—even the little picture which I have so long worn, and so often have told thee, Eliza, I would carry with me into my grave, would have been torn from my neck.—Ungenerous!—to seize upon the wreck of an unwary passenger, whom your subjects had beckon'd to their coast—by heaven! SIRE, it is not well done; and much does it grieve me, 'tis the monarch of a people so civilized and courteous, and so renown'd for sentiment and fine feelings, that I have to reason with—

But I have scarce set foot in your dominions—

CALAIS.

WHEN I had finish'd my dinner, and drank the king of France's health, to satisfy my mind that I bore him no spleen, but, on the contrary, high honour for the humanity of his temper—I rose up an inch taller for the accommodation.

—No—said I—the Bourbon is by no means a cruel race: they may be misled like other people; but there is a mildness in their blood. As I acknowledged this, I felt a suffu-

* All the effects of strangers (Swiss and Scotch excepted) dying in France, are seized by virtue of this law, though the heir be upon the spot—the profit of these contingencies being farmed, there is no redress.



JOURNEY.

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sion of a finer kind upon my cheek—more warm and friendly to man, than what Burgundy (at least of two livres a bottle, which was such as I had been drinking) could have produced.

Just God ! said I, kicking my portmantau aside, what is there in this world's goods which should sharpen our spirits, and make so many kind-hearted brethren of us, fall out so cruelly as we do by the way ?

When man is at peace with man, how much lighter than a feather is the heaviest of metals in his hand ! he pulls out his purse, and, holding it airily and uncompress'd, looks round him, as if he sought for an object to share it with.—In doing this, I felt every vessel in my frame dilate—the arteries beat all cheerily together, and every power which sustained life, perform'd it with so little friction, that 'twould have confounded the most *physical precieuse* in France : with all her materialism, she could scarce have called me a machine.—

I'm confident, said I to myself, I should have overset her creed.

The accession of that idea, carried nature, at that time, as high as she could go—I was at peace with the world before, and this finish'd the treaty with myself—

—Now, was I a King of France, cried I—what a moment for an orphan to have begg'd his father's portmanteau of me !

A SENTIMENTAL THE MONK.

CALAIS.

I HAD scarce utter'd the words, when a poor monk of the order of St. Francis came into the room, to beg something for his convent. No man cares to have his virtues the sport of contingencies—or one man may be generous, as another man is puissant—*sed non quoad hanc*—or be it as it may—for there is no regular reasoning upon the ebbs and flows of our humours; they may depend upon the same causes, for aught I know, which influence the tides themselves—'twould oft be no discredit to us, to suppose it was so: I'm sure, at least for myself, that in many a case I should be more highly satisfied, to have it said by the world, « I had had an affair with the moon, in which there was neither sin nor shame, » than have it pass altogether as my own act and deed, wherein there was so much of both.

—But be this at it may. The moment I cast my eyes upon him, I was predetermined not to give him a single sou, and accordingly I put my purse into my pocket—button'd it up—set myself a little more upon my center, and advanced up gravely to him: there was something, I fear, forbidding, in my look: I have his figure this moment before my eyes, and think there was that in it which deserved better.

JOURNEY.

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The monk, as I judged from the break in his tonsure, a few scatter'd white hairs upon his temples, being all that remained of it, might be about seventy—but from his eyes, and that sort of fire which was in them, which seem'd more temper'd by courtesy than years, could be no more than sixty—Truth might lie between—He was certainly sixty-five; and the general air of his countenance, notwithstanding something seem'd to have been planting wrinkles in it before their time, agreed to the account.

It was one of those heads, which Guido has often painted—mild, pale—penetrating, free from all common-place ideas of fat contented ignorance looking downwards upon the earth—it look'd forwards; but look'd, as if it look'd at something beyond this world. How one of his order came by it, heaven above, who let it fall upon a monk's shoulders, best knows; but it would have suited a Bramin, and had I met it upon the plains of Indostan, I had revered it.

The rest of his outline may be given in a few strokes; one might put it into the hands of any one to design, for 'twas neither elegant or otherwise, but as character and expression made it so: it was a thin, spare form, something above the common size, if it lost not the distinction by a bend forwards in the figure, but it was the attitude of Intreaty; and as it now stands present to my imagination, it gain'd more than it lost by it.

A 3

When he had enter'd the room three paces, he stood still; and laying his left hand upon his breast, (a slender white staff with which he journey'd being in his right)—when I had got close up to him, he introduced himself with the little story of the wants of his convent, and the poverty of his order—and did it with so simple a grace—and such an air of deprecation was there in the whole cast of his look and figure—I was bewitch'd not to have been struck with it.—

—A better reason was, I had predetermined not to give him a single sou.

T H E M O N K.

C A L A I S.

—**T**IS very true, said I, replying to a cast upwards with his eyes, with which he had concluded his address—'tis very true—and heaven be their resource who have no other but the charity of the world, the stock of which, I fear, is no way sufficient for the many *great claims* which are hourly made upon it.

As I pronounced the words *great claims*, he gave a slight glance with his eye downwards upon the sleeve of his tunic—I felt the full force of the appeal—I acknowledge it, said I—a coarse habit, and that but once in three years, with meagre diet—are no

great matters: and the true point of pity is, as they can be earn'd in the world with so little industry, that your order should wish to procure them, by pressing upon a fund which is the property of the lame, the blind, the aged, and the infirm—the captive who lies down counting over and over again the days of his afflictions, languishes also for his share of it; and had you been of the *order of Mercy*, instead of the order of St. Francis, poor as I am, continued I, pointing at my portmanteau, full chearfully should it have been open'd to you, for the ransom of the unfortunate—The monk made me a bow—but of all others, resumed I, the unfortunate of our own country, surely, have the first rights; and I have left thousands in distress upon our own shore—The monk gave a cordial wave with his head—as much as to say: No doubt, there is misery enough in every corner of the world, as well as within our convent.—But we distinguish, said I, laying my hand upon the sleeve of his tunic, in return for his appeal—we distinguish, my good father! betwixt those who wish only to eat the bread of their own labour—and those who eat the bread of other people's, and have no other plan in life, but to get through it in sloth and ignorance, *for the love of God.*

The poor Franciscan made no reply: a hectic of a moment pass'd across his cheek, but could not tarry—Nature seemed to have

had done with her resentments in him; he shewed none——but letting his staff fall within his arm, he press'd both his hands with resignation upon his breast, and retired.

T H E M O N K.

C A L A I S.

My heart smote me the moment he shut the door—Psha! said I, with an air of carelessness, three several times—but it would not do: every ungracious syllable I had utter'd, crowded back into my imagination: I reflected, I had no right over the poor Franciscan, but to deny him; and that the punishment of that was enough to the disappointed, without the addition of unkind language—I consider'd his grey hairs—his courteous figure seem'd to re-enter and gently ask me what injury he had done me?—and why I could use him thus?—I would have given twenty livres for an advocate—I have behaved very ill, said I within myself; but I have only just set out upon my travels, and shall learn better manners as I get along.

T H E D E S O B L I G E A N T.

C A L A I S.

WHEN a man is discontented with himself, it has one advantage however, that it puts

him into an excellent frame of mind for making a bargain. Now there being no travelling through France and Italy without a chaise—and nature generally prompting us to the thing we are fittest for, I walk'd out into the coach-yard, to buy or hire something of that kind to my purpose: an old * Desobligeant in the furthest corner of the court, hit my fancy at first sight, so I instantly got into it, and finding it in tolerable harmony with my feelings, I ordered the waiter to call Monsieur Dessein the master of the hôtel—but Monsieur Dessein being gone to vespers, and not caring to face the Franciscan, whom I saw on the opposite side of the court, in conference with a lady just arrived at the inn—I drew the taffeta curtain betwixt us, and being determined to write my journey, I took out my pen and ink, and wrote the preface to it in the *Desobligeant*.

P R E F A C E

IN THE DESOBLIGEANT.

IT must have been observed by many a peripatetic philosopher, that nature has set up by her own unquestionable authority, certain boundaries and fences to circumscribe

* A chaise, so called in France, from its holding but one person.

the discontent of men: she has effected her purpose in the quietest and easiest manner, by laying him under almost insuperable obligations to work out his ease; and to sustain his sufferings at home. It is there only that she has provided him with the most suitable objects to partake of his happiness, and bear a part of that burden which, in all countries and ages, has ever been too heavy for one pair of shoulders. 'Tis true, we are endued with an imperfect power of spreading our happiness sometimes beyond *her* limits, but 'tis so ordered, that from the want of languages, connections, and dependencies, and from the difference in education, customs and habits, we lie under so many impediments in communicating our sensations out of our own sphere, as often amount to a total impossibility.

It will always follow from hence, that the balance of sentimental commerce is always against the expatriated adventurer: he must buy what he has little occasion for, at their own price—his conversation will seldom be taken in exchange for theirs, without a large discount—and this, by the bye, eternally driving him into the hands of more equitable brokers for such conversation as he can find, it requires no great spirit of divination to guess at his party.—

This brings me to my point; and naturally leads me (if the see-saw of this *Desobligeant* will but let me get on) into the effi-

cient as well as the final causes of travelling.—

Your idle people, that leave their native country, and go abroad, for some reason or reasons, which may be derived from one of these general causes—

Infirmity of body,

Imbecillity of mind, or

Inevitable necessity.

The first two include all those who travel by land or by water, labouring with pride, curiosity, vanity or spleen, subdivided and combined in *infinitum*.

The third class includes the whole army of peregrine martyrs; more especially those travellers who set out upon their travels with the benefit of the clergy, either as delinquents travelling under the direction of governors, recommended by the magistrate—or young gentlemen transported by the cruelty of parents and guardians, and travelling under the direction of governors recommended by Oxford, Aberdeen, and Glasgow.

There is a fourth class, but their number is so small that they would not deserve a distinction, was it not necessary in a work of this nature to observe the greatest precision and nicety, to avoid a confusion of character. And these men I speak of, are such as cross the seas, and sojourn in a land of strangers, with a view of saving money for various reasons, and upon various pretences:

but as they might also save themselves and others a great deal of unnecessary trouble, by saving their money at home—and as their reasons for travelling are the least complex of any other species of emigrants, I shall distinguish these gentlemen by the name of

Simple Travellers.

Thus the whole circle of travellers may be reduced to the following *Heads*:

Idle Travellers,
Inquisitive Travellers,
Lying Travellers,
Proud Travellers,
Vain Travellers,
Splenetic Travellers.

Then follow the Travellers of Necessity:

The delinquent and felonious Traveller,
The unfortunate and innocent Traveller,
The simple Traveller,

And last of all (if you please)

The Sentimental Traveller.

(meaning thereby myself) who have travelled, and of which I am now sitting down to give an account—as much out of *Necessity* and the *besoin de voyager*, as any one in the class.

I am well aware, at the same time, as both my travels and observations will be altogether of a different cast from any of my fore-runners; that I might have insisted upon a whole nitch entirely to myself—but I should break in upon the confines of the *Vain Traveller*, in wishing to draw attention towards

me, 'till I have some better grounds for it, than the mere *Novelty of my Vehicle*.

It is sufficient for my reader, if he has been a traveller himself, that with study and reflection hereupon, he may be able to determine his own place and rank in the catalogue—it will be one step towards knowing himself; as it is great odds but he retains some tincture and resemblance of what he imbibed or carried out to the present hour.

The man who first transplanted the grape of Burgundy to the Cape of Good Hope (observe he was a Dutchman) never dreamt of drinking the same wine at the Cape, that the same grape produced upon the French mountains—he was too phlegmatic for that—but undoubtedly he expected to drink some sort of vinous liquor; but whether good, bad, or indifferent—he knew enough of this world, to know that it did not depend upon his choice, but that what is generally called *chance* was to decide his success: however, he hoped for the best; and in these hopes, by an intemperate confidence in the fortitude of his head, and the depth of his discretion, *Mynheer* might possibly overset both in his new vineyard; and by discovering his nakedness, become a laughing-stock to his people.

Even so it fares with the poor Traveller, sailing and posting through the politer kingdoms of the globe, in pursuit of knowledge and improvements.

Knowledge and improvements are to be got by sailing and posting for that purpose ; but whether useful knowledge and real improvements , is all a lottery—and even where the adventurer is successful , the acquired stock must be used with caution and sobriety to turn to any profit—but as the chances run prodigiously the other way , both as to the acquisition and application , I am of opinion , that a man would act as wisely , if he could prevail upon himself , to live contented without foreign knowledge or foreign improvements , especially if he lives in a country that has no absolute want of either—and , indeed , much grief of heart has it oft and many a time cost me , when I have observed how many a foul step the inquisitive Traveller has measured , to see sights , and look into discoveries ; all which , as Sancho Pança said to Don Quixote , they might have seen dry-shod , at home. It is an age so full of light , that there is scarce a country or corner of Europe , whose beams are not crossed and interchanged with others—Knowledge in most of its branches , and in most affairs , is like music in an Italian street , whereof those may partake who pay nothing.—But there is no nation under heaven—and God is my record , (before whose tribunal I must one day come and give an account of this work) that I do not speak it vauntingly.—But there is no nation under heaven

abounding with more variety of learning—where the sciences may be more fitly woo'd , or more surely won than here—where art is encouraged , and will so soon rise high—where Nature (take her all together) has so little to answer for—and , to close all , where there is more wit and variety of character to feed the mind with—Where then , my dear countrymen , are you going?—

—We are only looking at this chaise , said they—Your most obedient servant , said I , skipping out of it , and pulling off my hat—We were wondering , said one of them , who , I found , was an *inquisitive traveller*—what could occasion its motion—'Twas the agitation , said I-coolly , of writing a preface—I never heard , said the other , who was a *simple Traveller* , of a preface wrote in a *Desobligeant*.—It would have been better , said I , in a *Vis-à-Vis*.

—As an *Englishman does not travel 10 see Englishmen* , I retired to my room.

C A L A I S.

I Perceived that something darken'd the passage more than myself , as I stepp'd along it to my room ; it was effectually Mons. Dessein , the master of the hôtel , who had just returned from vespers , and , with his hat under his arm , was most complaisantly

following me, to put me in mind of my wants. I had wrote myself pretty well out of conceit with the *Desobligeant*; and Mons. Dessein speaking of it, with a shrug, as if it would no way suit me, it immediately struck my fancy, that it belong'd to some *innocent traveller*, who, on his return home, had left it to Mons. Dessein's honour, to make the most of. Four months had elapsed since it had finish'd its career of Europe in the corner of Monsieur Dessein's coach-yard; and having sallied out from thence but a vamt-up business at the first, though it had been twice taken to pieces on Mount Sennis, it had not profited much by its adventures—but by none so little as the standing so many months unpitied in the corner of Mons. Dessein's coach-yard. Much indeed was not to be said for it—but something might—and when a few words will rescue misery out of her distress, I hate the man who can be a churl of them.

—Now, was I the master of this hôtel; said I, laying the point of my fore-finger on Mons. Dessein's breast, I would inevitably make a point of getting rid of this unfortunate *Desobligeant*—it stands swinging reproaches at you every time you pass by it—

Mon Dieu! said Mons. Dessein—I have no interest—Except the interest, said I, which men of a certain turn of mind take, Mons. Dessein, in their own sensations—

I'm persuaded, to a man who feels for others as well as for himself, every rainy night, disguise it as you will, must cast a damp upon your spirits—You suffer, *Monf. Dessein*, as much as the machine—

I have always observed, when there is as much *sour* as *sweet* in a compliment, that an Englishman is eternally at a loss within himself, whether to take it, or let it alone: a Frenchman never is: *Monf. Dessein* made me a bow.

C'est bien vrai, said he—But in this case I should only exchange one disquietude for another, and with loss: figure to yourself, my dear Sir, that in giving you a chaise which would fall to pieces before you had got half way to Paris—figure to yourself how much I would suffer, in giving an ill impression of myself to a man of honour, and lying at the mercy, as I must do, *d'un homme d'esprit*.

The dose was made up exactly after my own prescription; so I could not help taking it—and returning *Monf. Dessein* his bow, without more casuistry we walk'd together towards his remise, to take a view of his magazine of chaises.

IN THE STREET.

CALAIS.

IT must needs be a hostile kind of a world; when the buyer (if it be but of a sorry post-chaise) cannot go forth with the seller thereof.

into the street to terminate the difference betwixt them, but he instantly falls into the same frame of mind, and views his conventionist with the same sort of eye, as if he was going along with him to Hyde-park corner to fight a duel. For my own part, being but a poor sword's man, and no way a match for Monsieur Dessein, I felt the rotation of all the movements within me, to which the situation is incident—I looked at Monsieur Dessein through and through—y'd him as he walked along in profile—then, *en fait*—thought he look'd like a Jew—then a Turk—disliked his wig—curled him by my gods—wished him at the devil—

—And is all this to be lighted up in the heart for a beggarly account of three or four *louis d'or*, which is the most I can be over-reach'd in?—Base passion! said I, turning myself about, as a man naturally does upon a sudden reverse of sentiment—base, ungentle passion! thy hand is against every man, and every man's hand against thee—Heaven forbid! said she, raising her hand up to her forehead, for I had turned full in front upon the lady whom I had seen in conference with the monk—she had followed us unperceived—Heaven forbid, indeed! said I, offering her my own—she had a black pair of silk gloves open only at the thumb and two fore-fingers, so accepted it without reserve—and I led her up to the door of the Remise.

—Monsieur Dessein had *disabled* the key

above fifty times before he found out he had come with a wrong one in his hand : we were as impatient as himself to have it open'd ; and so attentive to the obstacle, that I continued holding her hand almost without knowing it ; so that Monsieur Dessein left us together with her hand in mine, and with our faces turned towards the door of the Remise, and said he would be back in five minutes.

Now a colloquy of five minutes, in such a situation, is worth one of as many ages, with your faces turned towards the street : in the latter case, 'tis drawn from the objects and occurrences without—when your eyes are fixed upon a dead blank—you draw purely from yourselves. A silence of a single moment upon Monsieur Dessein's leaving us, had been fatal to the situation—she had infallibly turned about—so I begun the conversation instantly.—

—But what were the temptations, (as I write not to apologize for the weaknesses of my heart in this tour,—but to give an account of them)—shall be described with the same simplicity with which I felt them.

THE REMISE DOOR.

CALAIS.

WHEN I told the reader that I did not care to get out of the *Desobligeant*, because

I saw the monk in close conference with a lady just arrived at the inn—I told him the truth; but I did not tell him the whole truth; for I was full as much restrained by the appearance and figure of the lady he was talking to. Suspicion crossed my brain, and said, he was telling her what had passed; something jarred upon it within me—I wished him at his convent.

When the heart flies out before the understanding, it saves the judgment a world of pains—I was certain she was of a better order of beings—however, I thought no more of her, but went on and wrote my preface.

The impression returned, upon my encounter with her in the street; a guarded frankness with which she gave me her hand, shewed, I thought, her good education and her good sense; and as I led her on, I felt a pleasurable ductility about her, which spread a calmness over all my spirits.

—Good God! how a man might lead such a creature as this round the world with him!

I had not yet seen her face—'twas not material; for the drawing was instantly set about, and long before we had got to the door of the Remise, *Fancy* had finished the whole head, and pleased herself as much with its fitting her goddess, as if she had dived into the *TIBER* for it—but thou art a seduced and a seducing slut; and albeit

thou cheatest us seven times a day with thy pictures and images, yet with so many charms dost thou do it, and thou deckest out thy pictures in the shapes of so many angels of ligh, 'tis a shame to break with thee.

When we had got to the door of the Remise, she withdrew her hand from across her forehead, and let me see the original—it was a face of about six-and-twenty—of a clear transparent brown, simply set off without rouge or powder—it was not critically handsome, but there was that in it, which, in the frame of mind I was in, attached me much more to it—it was interesting; I fancied it wore the characters of a widow'd lock, and in that state of its declension, which had passed the two first paroxysms of sorrow, and was quietly beginning to reconcile itself to its loss—but a thousand other distresses might have traced the same lines; I wish'd to know what they had been—and was ready to inquire, (had the same *bon ton* of conversation permitted, as in the days of Eldras)—« *What aileth thee? and why art thou disquieted? and why is thy understanding troubled?* »—In a word, I felt benevolence for her; and resolv'd some way or other to throw in my mite of courtesy—if not of service.

Such were my temptations—and in this disposition to give way to them, was I left alone with the lady, with her hand in mine,

and with our faces both turned closer to the door of the Remise than what was absolutely necessary.

THE REMISE DOOR.

CALAIS.

THIS certainly, fair lady! said I, raising her hand up a little lightly as I began, must be one of Fortune's whimsical doings; to take two utter strangers by their hands—of different sexes, and, perhaps, from different corners of the globe, and, in one moment, place them together in such a cordial situation, as Friendship herself could scarce have atchieved for them, had she projected it for a month.—

—And your reflection upon it, shews how much, Monsieur, she has embarrassed you by the adventure.—

When the situation is what we should wish, nothing is so ill-timed as to hint at the circumstances which make it so; you thank Fortune, continued she—you had reason—the heart knew it, and was satisfied; and who but an English philosopher would have sent notice of it to the brain, to reverse the judgment?

In saying this, she disengaged her hand with a look which I thought a sufficient commentary upon the text.

It is a miserable picture which I am going to give of the weakness of my heart, by owning that it suffered a pain, which worthier occasions could not have inflicted.—I was mortified with the loss of her hand, and the manner in which I had lost it, carried neither oil nor wine to the wound: I never felt the pain of a sheepish inferiority so miserable in my life.

The triumphs of a true feminine heart are short upon these discomfitures. In a very few seconds she laid her hand upon the cuff of my coat, in order to finish her reply; so some way or other, God knows how, I regained my situation.

—She had nothing to add.

I forthwith began to model a different conversation for the lady, thinking from the spirit as well as moral of this, that I had been mistaken in her character; but upon turning her face towards me, the spirit which had animated the reply was fled—the muscles relaxed, and I beheld the same unprotected look of distress which first won me to her interest—melancholy! to see such sprightliness the prey of sorrow—I pitied her from my soul; and though it may seem ridiculous enough to a torpid heart,—I could have taken her into my arms, and cherished her, though it was in the open street, without blushing.

The pulsations of the arteries along my fingers pressing across hers, told her what was passing within me : she looked down—a silence of some moments followed.

I fear, in this interval, I must have made some slight efforts towards a closer comprehension of her hand, from a subtle sensation I felt in the palm of my own—not as if she was going to withdraw hers—but as if she thought about it—and I had infallibly lost it a second time, had not instinct more than reason directed me to the last resource in these dangers—to hold it loosely, and in a manner as if I was every moment going to release it, of myself; so she let it continue, till Monsieur Dessein returned with the key; and in the mean time I set myself to consider how I should undo the ill impressions which the poor monk's story, in case he had told it her, must have planted in her breast against me.

T H E S N U F F - B O X .

C A L A I S .

TH E good old monk was within six paces of us, as the idea of him cross'd my mind; and was advancing towards us a little out of the line, as if uncertain whether he should break in upon us or no. He stopp'd, however, as soon as he came up to us, with a
world

world of frankness; and having a horn snuff-box in his hand, he presented it open to me—You shall taste mine—said I, pulling out my box (which was a small tortoise one) and putting it into his hand—'Tis most excellent, said the monk. Then do me the favour, I replied, to accept of the box and all, and when you take a pinch out of it, sometimes recollect it was the peace-offering of a man who once used you unkindly, but not from his heart.

The poor monk blush'd as red as scarlet. *Mon Dieu!* said he, pressing his hands together—you never used me unkindly.—I should think, said the lady, he is not likely. I blush'd in my turn; but from what movements, I leave to the few who feel to analyse—Excuse me, Madam, replied I—I treated him most unkindly; and from no provocations—'Tis impossible, said the lady.—My God! cried the monk, with a warmth of asseveration which seemed not to belong to him—the fault was in me, and in the indiscretion of my zeal—The lady opposed it, and I joined with her in maintaining it was impossible, that a spirit so regulated as his, could give offence to any.

I knew not that contention could be rendered so sweet and pleasurable a thing to the nerves as I then felt it. We remained silent, without any sensation of that foolish pain which takes place, when in such a circle

you look for ten minutes in one another's faces without saying a word. Whilst this lasted, the monk rubb'd his horn box upon the sleeve of his tunic; and as soon as it had acquired a little air of brightness by the friction—he made a low bow, and said, 'twas too late to say whether it was the weakness or goodness of our tempers which had involved us in this contest—but be it as it would—he begg'd we might exchange boxes—In saying this, he presented his to me with one hand, as he took mine from me in the other; and having kiss'd it—with a stream of good nature in his eyes, he put it into his bosom—and took his leave.

I guard this box, as I would the instrumental parts of my religion, to help my mind on to something better: in truth, I seldom go abroad without it; and oft and many a time have I called up, by it, the courteous spirit of its owner to regulate my own, in the jostlings of the world. They had found full employment for his, as I learnt from his story, 'till about the forty-fifth year of his age, when upon some military services ill requited, and meeting at the same time with a disappointment in the tenderest of passions, he abandon'd the sword and the sex together, and took sanctuary, not so much in his convent as in himself.

I feel a damp upon my spirits, as I am going to add, that in my last return through

Calais, upon inquiring after Father Lorenzo, I heard he had been dead near three months, and was buried, not in his convent, but, according to his desire, in a little cemetery belonging to it, about two leagues off. I had a strong desire to see where they had laid him—when, upon pulling out his little horn box, as I sat by his grave, and plucking up a nettle or two at the head of it, which had no business to grow there, they all struck together so forcibly upon my affections, that I burst into a flood of tears—but I am as weak as a woman: and I beg the world not to smile, but pity me.

THE REMISE DOOR.

CALAIS.

I HAD never quitted the lady's hand all this time, and had held it so long, that it would have been indecent to have let it go, without first pressing it to my lips: the blood and spirits, which had suffer'd a revulsion from her, crowded back to her, as I did it.

Now the two travellers who had spoke to me in the coach-yard, happening at that crisis to be passing by, and observing our communications, naturally took it into their heads, that we must be *man and wife* at least; so, stopping as soon as they came up to the door of the Remise, the one of them, who

was the inquisitive traveller, ask'd us, if we set out for Paris the next morning?—I could only answer for myself, I said; and the lady added, she was for Amiens. We dined there yesterday, said the simple traveller.—You go directly through the town, added the other, in your road to Paris. I was going to return a thousand thanks for the intelligence, *that Amiens was in the road to Paris*; but, upon pulling out my poor monk's little horn box to take a pinch of snuff, I made them a quiet bow, and wished them a good passage to Dover—they left us alone—

—Now where would be the harm, said I to myself, if I was to beg of this distressed lady to accept of half of my chaise?—and what mighty mischief could ensue?

Every dirty passion, and bad propensity in my nature, took the alarm, as I stated the proposition.—It will oblige you to have a third horse, said AVARICE, which will put twenty livres out of your pocket.—You know not what she is, said CAUTION—or what scrapes the affair may draw you into, whisper'd COWARDICE—

Depend upon it, Yorick! said DISCRETION, 'twill be said you went off with a mistress, and came by assignation to Calais for that purpose—

—You can never after, cried HYPOCRISY aloud, shew your face in the world—or rise, quoth MEANNESS, in the church—or be any

thing in it, said PRIDE, but a lousy prebendary.

—But 'tis a civil thing, said I—and as I generally act from the first impulse, and therefore seldom listen to these cabals, which serve no purpose, that I know of, but to encompass the heart with adamant—I turn'd instantly about to the lady.—

But she had glided off unperceived, as the cause was pleading, and had made ten or a dozen paces down the street, by the time I had made the determination; so I set off after her with a long stride, to make her the proposal with the best address I was master of; but observing she walk'd with her cheek half resting upon the palm of her hand—with the slow, short measur'd step of thoughtfulness, and with her eyes, as she went step by step, fix'd upon the ground, it struck me, she was trying the same cause herself.—God help her! said I, she has some mother-in-law, or tartufish aunt, or nonsensical old woman, to consult upon the occasion, as well as myself: so not caring to interrupt the *process*, and deeming it more gallant to take her at discretion than surprise, I faced about, and took a short turn or two before the door of the Remise, whilst she walk'd musing on one side.

A SENTIMENTAL
IN THE STREET.

C A L A I S.

HAVING, on first sight of the lady, settled the affair in my fancy, « that she was » of the better order of beings »—and then laid it down as a second axiom, as indisputable as the first, that she was a widow, and wore a character of distress—I went no further; I got ground enough for the situation which pleased me—and had she remained close beside my elbow till midnight, I should have held true to my system, and considered her only under that general idea.

She had scarce got twenty paces distant from me, ere something within me called out for a more particular inquiry—it brought on the idea of a further separation—I might possibly never see her more—the heart is for saving what it can; and I wanted the traces thro' which my wishes might find their way to her, in case I should never rejoin her myself: in a word, I wish'd to know her name—her family's—her condition; and as I knew the place to which she was going, I wanted to know from whence she came: but there was no coming at all this intelligence; a hundred little delicacies stood in the way. I form'd a score different plans—There was no such thing as a man's asking her directly—the thing was impossible.

A little French *debonnaire* captain, who came dancing down the street, shewed me, it was the easiest thing in the world; for popping in betwixt us, just as the lady was returning back to the door of the Remise, he introduced himself to my acquaintance, and before he had well got announced, begg'd I would do him the honour to present him to the lady—I had not been presented myself—so turning about to her, he did it just as well by asking her, if she had come from Paris?—No: she was going that rout, she said.—*Vous n'êtes pas de Londres?*—She was not, she replied—Then Madame must have come thro' Flanders.—*Apparemment vous êtes Flamande?* said the French captain.—The lady answered, she was.—*Peut-être de Lille?* added he—She said, she was not of Lisle.—Nor Arras?—nor Cambray?—nor Ghent?—nor Brussels? She answered, she was of Brussels.

He had had the honour, he said, to be at the bombardment of it last war—that it was finely situated *pour cela*—and full of noblesse when the Imperialists were driven out by the French—(the lady made a slight curtsy)—so giving her an account of the affair, and of the share he had in it—he begg'd the honour to know her name—so made his bow.

—*Et Madame a son Mari?*—said he, looking back, when he had made two steps—

and without staying for an answer—danced down the street.

Had I served seven years apprenticeship to good breeding, I could not have done as much.

THE REMISE.

CALAIS.

As the little French captain left us, Mons. Dessein came up with the key of the Remise in his hand, and forthwith let us into his magazine of chaises.

The first object which caught my eye, as Mons. Dessein open'd the door of the Remise, was another old tatter'd *Desobligeant*: and notwithstanding it was the exact picture of that which had hit my fancy so much in the coach-yard but an hour before—the very sight of it stirr'd up a disagreeable sensation within me now; and I thought 'twas a churlish beast into whose heart the idea could first enter, to construct such a machine; nor had I much more charity for the man who could think of using it.

I observed the lady was as little taken with it as myself: so Mons. Dessein led us on to a couple of chaises which stood abreast; telling us, as he recommended them, that they had been purchased by my Lord A. and B. to go the *grand tour*, but had gone no further than Paris, so were in all respects as good as new—They were too good—

so I pass'd on to a third, which stood behind, and forthwith began to chaffer for the price— But 'twill scarce hold two, said I, opening the door and getting in—Have the goodness, Madam, said Mons. Dessen, offering his arm, to step in—The lady hesitated half a second, and stepp'd in; and the waiter that moment bekoning to speak to Mons. Dessen, he shut the door of the chaise upon us, and left us.

THE REMISE.

CALAIS.

C'EST bien comique, 'tis very droll, said the lady smiling, from the reflection that this was the second time we had been left together by a parcel of nonsensical contingencies—*c'est bien comique*, said she—

—There wants nothing, said I, to make it so, but the comic use which the gallantry of a Frenchman would put it to—to make love the first moment, and an offer of his person the second.

'Tis their *fort*, replied the lady.

It is supposed so at least—and how it has come to pass, continued I, I know not; but they have certainly got the credit of understanding more of love, and making it better than any other nation upon earth: but for my own part, I think them errant bunglers, and in truth the worst set of marksmen that ever tried Cupid's patience.

—To think of making love by *sentiments*!

I should as soon think of making a genteel suit of clothes out of remnants:—and to do it—pop—at first sight by declaration—is submitting the offer, and themselves with it, to be sifted, with all their *pour* and *contre*, by an unheated mind.

The lady attended, as if she expected I should go on.

Consider then, madam, continued I, laying my hand upon her's—

That grave people hate Love for the name's sake—

That selfish people hate it for their own—
Hypocrites for heavn's—

And that all of us, both old and young, being ten times worse frighten'd than hurt by the very report—What a want of knowledge in this branch of commerce a man betrays, whoever lets the word come out of his lips, till an hour or two at least after the time that his silence upon it becomes tormenting. A course of small, quiet attentions, not so pointed as to alarm—nor so vague as to be misunderstood—with now and then a look of kindness, and little or nothing said upon it—leaves Nature for your mistress, and she fashions it to her mind—

Then I solemnly declare, said the lady, blushing—you have been making love to me all this while.

THE REMISE.

CALAIS.

MONSIEUR Dessen came back to let us out of the chaise, and acquaint the lady, the Count de L—, her brother, was just arrived at the hôtel. Though I had infinite good-will for the lady, I cannot say, that I rejoiced in my heart at the event—and could not help telling her so—for it is fatal to a proposal, madam, said I, that I was going to make to you—

—You need not tell me what the proposal was, said she, laying her hand upon both mine, as she interrupted me.—A man, my good Sir, has seldom an offer of kindness to make to a woman, but she has a presentiment of it some moments before—

Nature arms her with ~~it~~, said I, for immediate preservation.—But I think, said she, looking in my face, I had no evil to apprehend—and, to deal frankly with you, had determined to accept it.—If I had—(she stopped a moment)—I believe your good-will would have drawn a story from me, which would have made pity the only dangerous thing in the journey.

In saying this, she suffered me to kiss her hand twice, and with a look of sensibility, mixed with a concern, she got out of the chaise—and bid adieu.

CALAIS.

I NEVER finished a twelve-guinea bargain so expeditiously in my life: my time seemed heavy upon the loss of the lady, and knowing every moment of it would be as two, till I put myself into motion—I ordered post-horses directly, and walked towards the hôtel.

Lord! said I, hearing the town-clock strike four, and recollecting that I had been little more than a single hour in Calais—

—What a large volume of adventures may be grasped within this little span of life by him who interests his heart in every thing, and who, having eyes to see, what time and chance are perpetually holding out to him as he journeyeth on his way, misses nothing he can fairly lay his hands on.—

—If this won't turn out something—another will—no matter—'tis an essay upon human nature—I get my labour for my pains—'tis enough—the pleasure of the experiment has kept my senses, and the best part of my blood, awake, and laid the gross to sleep.

I pity the man who can travel from *Dan* to *Beersheeba*, and cry, 'Tis all barren—and so it is; and so is all the world to him who will not cultivate the fruits it offers. I declare, said I, clapping my hands cheerily

together, that was I in a desert, I would find out wherewith in it to call forth my affections.—If I could not do better, I would fasten them upon some sweet myrtle, or seek some melancholy cypress to connect myself to—I would court their shade, and greet them kindly for their protection—I would cut my name upon them, and swear they were the loveliest trees throughout the desert: if their leaves wither'd, I would teach myself to mourn, and when they rejoiced, I would rejoice along with them.

The learned SMELFUNGUS travelled from Boulogne to Paris—from Paris to Rome—and so on—but he set out with the spleen and jaundice, and every object he passed by, was discoloured or distorted—He wrote an account of them, but 'twas nothing but the account of his miserable feelings.

I met Smelfungus in the grand portico of the Pantheon—he was just coming out of it—*'Tis nothing but a huge cock-pit* *, said he—I wish you had said nothing worse of the Venus of Medicis, replied I—for in passing through Florence, I had heard he had fallen foul upon the goddess, and had used her worse than a common strumpet, without the least provocation in nature.

I popp'd upon Smelfungus again at Turin, in his return home; and a sad tale of sorrowful adventures he had to tell, « where-

* *Vide S—'s Travels.*

A SENTIMENTAL IN THE STREET.

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» in he spoke of moving accidents by flood
 » and field, and of the Cannibals which
 » each other eat : the Anthropophagi » *—he
 had been flay'd alive, and bedevil'd, and
 used worse than S. Bartholomew, at every
 stage he had come at—

—I'll tell it, cried Smelfungus, to the
 world. You had better tell it, said I, to your
 physician.

Mundungus, with an immense fortune,
 made the whole tour; going on from Rome
 to Naples—from Naples to Venice—from
 Venice to Vienna—to Dresden, to Berlin,
 without one generous connection or pleasu-
 rable anecdote to tell of; but he had tra-
 velled straight on, looking neither to his
 right hand or his left, lest Love or Pity
 should seduce him out of his road.

Peace be to them! if it is to be found; but
 heaven itself, was it possible to get there
 with such tempers, would want objects to
 give it—every gentle spirit would come
 flying upon the wings of Love to hail their
 arrival—Nothing would the souls of Smelfun-
 gus and Mundungus hear of, but fresh an-
 thems of joy, fresh raptures of love, and
 fresh congratulations of their common feli-
 city—I heartily pity them: they have brought
 up no faculties for this work; and was the
 happiest mansion in heaven to be allotted to
 Smelfungus and Mundungus, they would

* *Othello.*

be so far from being happy, that the souls of Smelfungus and Mundungus would do penance there to all eternity.

M O N T R I U L.

I HAD once lost my portmanteau from behind my chaise, and twice got out in the rain, and one of the times up to the knees in dirt, to help the postillion to tie it on, without being able to find out what was wanting—Nor was it till I got to Montriul, upon the landlord's asking me if I wanted not a servant, that it occurred to me, that that was the very thing.

A servant! That I do most sadly, quoth I—Because, Monsieur, said the landlord, there is a clever young fellow, who would be very proud of the honour to serve an Englishman—But why an English one, more than any other?—They are so generous, said the landlord—I'll be shot if this is not a livre out of my pocket, quoth I to myself, this very night—But they have wherewithal to be so, Monsieur, added he—set down one livre more for that, quoth I—It was but last night, said the landlord, *qu'un Mylord Anglois presentoit un écu à la fille de chambre—Tant pis pour Madlle Jeanneton*, said I.

Now Jeanneton being the landlord's daughter, and the landlord supposing I was young in French, took the liberty to inform me, I should not have said *tant pis*—

but, *tant mieux. Tant mieux, toujours, Monsieur*, said he, when there is any thing to be got—*tant pis*, when there is nothing. It comes to the same thing, said I. *Pardonnez-moi*, said the landlord.

I cannot take a fitter opportunity to observe, once for all, that *tant pis* and *tant mieux* being two of the great hinges in French conversation, a stranger would do well to set himself right in the use of them, before he gets to Paris.

A prompt French Marquis, at our ambassador's table, demanded of Mr. H—, if he was H—the poet? No, said H—mildly—*Tant pis*, replied the Marquis.

It is H—the historian, said another—*Tant mieux*, said the Marquis. And Mr. H—, who is a man of an excellent heart, return'd thanks for both.

When the landlord had set me right in this matter, he called in La Fleur, which was the name of the young man he had spoke of—saying only first, that as for his talents, he would presume to say nothing.—Monsieur was the best judge what would suit him; but for the fidelity of La Fleur, he would stand responsible in all he was worth.

The landlord deliver'd this in a manner which instantly set my mind to the business I was upon—and La Fleur, who stood waiting without, in that breathless expectation

which every son of nature of us have felt in our turns, came in.

M O N T R I U L.

I AM apt to be taken with all kinds of people at first sight; but never more so, than when a poor devil comes to offer his service to so poor a devil as myself; and as I know this weakness, I always suffer my judgment to draw back something on that very account—and this more or less, according to the mood I am in, and the case—and I may add the gender too of the person I am to govern.

When La Fleur enter'd the room, after every discount I could make for my soul, the genuine look and air of the fellow determined the matter at once in his favour; so I hired him first—and then began to inquire what he could do: But I shall find out his talents, quoth I, as I want them—besides, a Frenchman can do every thing.

Now poor La Fleur could do nothing in the world but beat a drum, and play a march or two upon the fife. I was determined to make his talents do; and can't say my weakness was ever so insulted by my wisdom, as in the attempt.

La Fleur had set out early in life, as gallantly as most Frenchmen do, with *serving* for a few years; at the end of which, hav-

ing satisfied the sentiment, and found moreover, that the honour of beating a drum was likely to be its own reward, as it open'd no further track of glory to him—he retired à ses terres and lived, *comme il pla' soit à Dieu*—that is to say, upon nothing.

—And so, quoth *Wisdom*, you have hired a drummer to attend you in this tour of yours thro' France and Italy! Psha! said I, and do not one half of our gentry go with a humdrum *compagnon du voyage* the same round, and have the piper and the devil and all to pay besides? When a man can extricate himself with an *equivoque* in such an unequal match—he is not ill off—But you can do something else, La Fleur? said I—*O qu'oui!*—he could make spatter-dashes, and play a little upon the fiddle—Bravo! said *Wisdom*—Why I play a bass myself, said I—we shall do very well—You can shave, and dress a wig a little, La Fleur?—He had all the dispositions in the world—It is enough for heaven! said I, interrupting him—and ought to be enough for me—So supper coming in, and having a frisky English spaniel on one side of my chair, and a French valet, with as much hilarity in his countenance as ever nature painted in one, on the other—I was satisfied to my heart's content with my empire; and if monarchs knew what they would be at, they might be satisfied as I was.

M O N T R I U L.

As La Fleur went the whole tour of France and Italy with me, and will be often upon the stage, I must interest the reader a little further in his behalf, by saying, that I had never less reason to repent of the impulses which generally do determine me, than in regard to this fellow—he was a faithful, affectionate, simple soul as ever trudged after the heels of a philosopher; and notwithstanding his talents of drum-beating and spatterdash-making, which, though very good in themselves, happen'd to be of no great service to me, yet was I hourly recompensed by the festivity of his temper—it supplied all defects—I had a constant resource in his looks, in all difficulties and distresses of my own—I was going to have added, of his too; but La Fleur was out of the reach of every thing; for whether 'twas hunger, or thirst, or cold, or nakedness, or watchings, or whatever stripes of ill luck La Fleur met with in our journeyings, there was no index in his physiognomy to point them out by—he was eternally the same; so that if I am a piece of a philosopher, which Satan now and then puts it into my head I am—it always mortifies the pride of the conceit, by reflecting how much I owe to the complexional phi-

losophy of this poor fellow , for shaming me into one of a better kind. With all this , La Fleur had a small cast of the coxcomb—but he seemed at first sight to be more a coxcomb of nature than of art ; and before I had been three days in Paris with him—he seemed to be no coxcomb at all.

M O N T R I U L.

THE next morning La Fleur entering upon his employment , I delivered to him the key of my portmanteau , with an inventory of my half a dozen shirts and silk pair of breeches ; and bid him fasten all upon the chaise—get the horses put to—and desired the landlord to come in with his bill.

C'est un garçon de bonne fortune , said the landlord , pointing through the window to half a dozen wenches who had got round about La Fleur , and were most kindly taking their leave of him , as the postillion was leading out the horses. La Fleur kissed all their hands round and round again , and thrice he wiped his eyes , and thrice he promised he would bring them all pardons from Rome.

The young fellow , said the landlord , is beloved by all the town , and there is scarce a corner in Montriul where the want of him will not be felt : he has but one misfortune in the world , continued he ,

« He is always in love ».—I am heartily glad of it, said I—'twill save me the trouble every night of putting my breeches under my head. In saying this, I was making not so much La Fleur's elege, as my own, having been in love with one princess or another almost all my life, and I hope I shall go on so, till I die, being firmly persuaded, that if ever I do a mean action, it must be in some interval betwixt one passion and another: whilst this *interregnum* lasts, I always perceived my heart locked up—I can scarce find in it to give Misery a fixpence; and therefore I always get out of it as fast as I can, and the moment I am rekindled, I am all generosity and good will again; and would do any thing in the world, either for, or with any one, if they will but satisfy me there is no sin in it.

—But in saying this—surely I am commending the passion—not myself.

A F R A G M E N T.

—THE town of Abdera, notwithstanding Democritus lived there, trying all the powers of irony and laughter to reclaim it, was the vilest and most profligate town in all Thrace. What for poisons, conspiracies and assassinations—libels, pasquinades and tumults, there was no going there by day—'twas worse by night.

Now, when things were at the worst,

it came to pass, that the Andromeda of Euripides being represented at Abdera, the whole orchestra was delighted with it: but of all the passages which delighted them, nothing operated more upon their imaginations, than the tender strokes of nature which the poet had wrought up in that pathetic speech of Perseus,

O Cupid, prince of God and men, &c.

Every man almost spoke pure iambics the next day, and talk'd of nothing but Perseus his pathetic address—"O Cupid! prince of » God and men »—in every street of Abdera, in every house—"O Cupid! Cupid!"—in every mouth, like the natural notes of some sweet melody which drops from it, whether it will or no—nothing but "Cupid! » Cupid! prince of God and men »—The fire caught—and the whole city, like the heart of one man, opened itself to Love.

No pharmacopolist could sell one grain of hellebore—not a single armourer had a heart to forge one instrument of death—Friendship and Virtue met together, and kiss'd each other in the street—the golden age return'd, and hung over the town of Abdera—every Abderite took his oaten pipe, and every Abderitish woman left her purple web, and chastely sat her down and listen'd to the song.

'Twas only in the power, says the Frag-

ment, of the God whose empire extendeth from heaven to earth, and even to the depths of the sea, to have done this.

M O N T R I U L.

WHEN all is ready, and every article is disputed and paid for in the inn, unless you are a little sour'd by the adventure, there is always a matter to compound at the door, before you can get into your chaise; and that is with the sons and daughters of poverty, who surround you. Let no man say, «let them go to the devil»—'tis a cruel journey to send a few miserables, and they have had sufferings enow without it: I always think it better to take a few sous out in my hand; and I would counsel every gentle traveller to do so likewise: he need not be so exact in setting down his motives for giving them—they will be register'd elsewhere.

For my own part, there is no man gives so little as I do; for few that I know have so little to give: but as this was the first public act of my charity in France, I took the more notice of it.

A well-a-way! said I, I have but eight sous in the world, shewing them in my hand, and there are eight poor men and eight poor women for 'em.

A poor tatter'd soul, without a shirt on,

instantly withdrew his claim, by retiring two steps out of the circle, and making a disqualifying bow on his part. Had the whole parterre cried out *Place aux dames*, with one voice, it would not have conveyed the sentiment of a deference for the sex with half the effect.

Just heaven ! for what wise reasons hast thou order'd it, that beggary and urbanity, which are at such variance in other countries, should find a way to be at unity in this ?

—I insisted upon presenting him with a single sous, merely for his *politesse*.

A poor little dwarfish brisk fellow, who stood over against me in the circle, putting some thing first under his arm, which had once been a hat, took his snuff-box out of his pocket, and generously offered a pinch on both sides of him : it was a gift of consequence, and modestly declined—The poor little fellow press'd it upon them with a nod of welcome—*Prenez-en—prenez*, said he, looking another way; so they each took a pinch—Pity thy box should ever want one ! said I to myself; so I put a couple of sous into it—taking a small pinch out of his box, to enhance their value, as I did it—He felt the weight of the second obligation more than of the first—'twas doing him an honour—the other was only doing him a charity—and he made me a bow down to the ground for it.

—Here !

Here ! said I to an old soldier with one hand, who had been campaign'd and worn out to death in the service—here's a couple of sous for thee—*Vive le Roi !* said the old soldier.

I had then but three sous left : so I gave one, simply *pour l'amour de Dieu*, which was the footing on which it was begg'd—The poor woman had a dislocated hip ; so it could not be well upon any other motive.

Mon cher & très-charitable Monsieur— There's no opposing this, said I.

*My Lord Anglois—*the very sound was worth the money—so I gave my last sous for it. But in the eagerness of giving, I had overlook'd a *pauvre honteux*, who had no one to ask a sous for him, and who, I believed, would have perish'd ere he could have ask'd one for himself : he stood by the chaise a little without the circle, and wiped a tear from a face which I thought had seen better days—Good God ! said I—and I have not one single sous left to give him—But you have a thousand ! cried all the powers of nature, stirring within me—so I gave him—no matter what—I am ashamed to say *how much*, now—and was ashamed to think how little, then ; so if the reader can form any conjecture of my disposition, as these two fixed points are given him, he may judge within a livre or two what was the precise sum.

I could afford nothing for the rest, but *Dieu vous bénisse—Et le bon Dieu vous bénisse*

encore—said the old soldier, the dwarf, &c. The *pauvre honteux* could say nothing—he pull'd out a little handkerchief, and wiped his face as he turned away—and I thought he thank'd me more than them all.

T H E B I D E T.

HAVING settled all these little matters, I got into my post-chaise with more ease than ever I got into a post-chaise in my life; and La Fleur having got one large jack-boot on the far side of a little *bidet* * and another on this (for I count nothing of his legs)—he canter'd away before me as happy and as perpendicular as a prince.—

—But what is happiness! what is grandeur in this painted scene of life! A dead ass, before we had got a league, put a sudden stop to La Fleur's career—his bidet would not pass by it—A contention arose betwixt them, and the poor fellow was kick'd out of his jack-boots the very first kick.

La Fleur bore his fall like a French Christian, saying neither more or less upon it, than, *Diable!* so presently got up, and came to the charge again astride his bidet, beating him up to it as he would have beat his drum.

The bidet flew from one side of the road to the other, then back again—then this way—then that way, and in short every way but by the dead ass.

* *Post-horse.*

La Fleur insisted upon the thing—and the bidet threw him.

What's the matter, La Fleur, said I, with this bidet of thine? *Monsieur*, said he, *c'est un cheval le plus opiniâtre du monde*—Nay, if he is a conceited beast, he must go his own way, replied I—so La Fleur got off him, and giving him a good sound lash, the bidet took me at my word, and away he scamper'd back to Montruil.—*Peste!* said La Fleur.

It is not *mal à propos* to take notice here, that tho' La Fleur availed himself but of two different terms of exclamation in this encounter—namely, *Diab!e!* and *Peste!* that there are nevertheless three, in the French language; like the positive, comparative, and superlative, one or the other of which serve for every unexpected throw of the dice in life.

Le Diab!e! which is the first and positive degree, is generally used upon ordinary emotions of the mind, where small things only fall out contrary to your expectations—such as—the throwing once doublets—La Fleur's being kick'd off his horse, and so forth—cuckoldom, for the same reason, is always—*Le Diab!e!*

But in cases where the cast has something provoking in it, as in that of the bidet's running away after, and leaving La Fleur aground in jack-boots—'tis the second degree.

'Tis then *Peste!*

And for the third.—

But here my heart is wrung with pity and fellow-feeling, when I reflect what miseries must have been their lot, and how bitterly so refined a people must have smarted, to have forced them upon the use of it.—

Grant me, O ye powers which touch the tongue with eloquence in distress!—whatever is my *cast*, grant me but decent words to exclaim in, and I will give my nature way.

But as these were not to be had in France, I resolved to take every evil just as it beset me, without any exclamation at all.

La Fleur, who had made no such covenant with himself, followed the bidet with his eyes, till it was got out of sight—and then you may imagine, if you please, with what word he closed the whole affair.

As there was no hunting down a frighten'd horse in jack-boots, there remained no alternative but taking La Fleur either behind the chaise, or into it.—

I preferred the latter, and in half an hour we got to the post-house at Nampont.

NAMPONT.

THE DEAD ASS.

—AND this, said he, putting the remains of a crust into his wallet—and this should

have been thy portion, said he, hadst thou been alive to have shared it with me.—I thought, by the accent, it had been an apostrophe to his child; but 'twas to his ass, and to the very ass we had seen dead in the road, which had occasioned La Fleur's misadventure. The man seemed to lament it much; and it instantly brought into my mind Sancho's lamentation for his; but he did it with more true touches of nature.

The mourner was sitting upon a stone-bench at the door, with the ass's pannel and its bridle on one side, which he took up from time to time—then laid them down—look'd at them, and shook his head. He then took his crust of bread out of his wallet again, as if to eat it; held it some time in his hand—then laid it upon the bit of his ass's bridle—looked wistfully at the little arrangement he had made—and then gave a sigh.

The simplicity of his grief drew numbers about him, and La Fleur amongst the rest; whilst the horses were getting ready; as I continued sitting in the post-chaise, I could see and hear over their heads.

—He said he had come last from Spain, where he had been from the furthest borders of Franconia; and had got so far on his return home, when his ass died. Every one seem'd desirous to know what business could have taken so old and poor a man so far a journey from his own home.

It had pleased heaven, he said, to bless him with three sons, the finest lads in all Germany; but having in one week lost two of the eldest of them by the small-pox, and the youngest falling ill of the same distemper, he was afraid of being bereft of them all; and made a vow, if heaven would not take him from him also, he would go, in gratitude, to St. Iago in Spain.

When the mourner got thus far on his story, he stopp'd to pay nature her tribute—and wept bitterly.

He said Heaven had accepted the conditions; and that he had set out from his cottage with this poor creature, who had been a patient partner of his journey—that it had eat the same bread with him all the way, and was unto him as a friend.

Every body who stood about, heard the poor fellow with concern—La Fleur offered him money—The mourner said, he did not want it—it was not the value of the ass—but the loss of him.—The ass, he said, he was assured, loved him—and upon this, told them a long story of a mischance upon their passage over the Pyrenean mountains, which had separated them from each other three days; during which time, the ass had sought him as much as he had sought the ass, and that they had neither scarce eat or drank till they met.

Thou hast one comfort, friend, said I,

at least, in the loss of thy poor beast; I'm sure thou hast been a merciful master to him—Alas! said the mourner, I thought so, when he was alive—but now that he is dead, I think otherwise.—I fear the weight of myself and my afflictions together have been too much for him—they have shortened the poor creature's days, and I fear I have them to answer for.—Shame on the world! said I to myself—Did we love each other, as this poor soul but loved his ass—'twould be something.—

N A M P O N T.

T H E P O S T I L L I O N.

TH E concern which the poor fellow's story threw me into, required some attention: the postillion paid not the least to it, but set off upon the *pavé* in a full gallop.

The thirstiest soul in the most sandy desert of Arabia could not have wished more for a cup of cold water, than mine did for grave and quiet movements; and I should have had an high opinion of the postillion, had he but stolen off with me in something like a pensive pace.—On the contrary, as the mourner finished his lamentation, the fellow gave an unfeeling lash to each of his beasts, and set off clattering like a thousand devils.

I called to him as loud as I could, for heaven's sake to go slower—and the louder I

called, the more unmercifully he galloped. —The deuce take him and his galloping too —said I—he'll go on tearing my nerves to pieces, till he has worked me into a foolish passion, and then he'll go slow, that I may enjoy the sweets of it.

The postillion managed the point to a miracle: by the time he had got to the foot of a steep hill about half a league from Nampont, —he had put me out of temper with him— and then with myself, for being so.

My case then required a different treatment; and a good rattling gallop would have been of real service to me.—

—Then, prithee, get on—get on, my good lad, said I.

The postillion pointed to the hill—I then tried to return back to the story of the poor German and his ass—but I had broke the clue—and could no more get into it again, than the postillion could into a trot.—

—The deuce go, said I, with it all! Here am I sitting as candidly disposed to make the best of the worst, as ever wight was, and all runs counter.

There is one sweet lenitive at least for evils, which Nature holds out to us; so I took it kindly at her hands, and fell asleep; and the first word which roused me was *Amiens*.

—Bless me! said I, rubbing my eyes—this is the very town where my poor lady is to come.

AMIENS.

THE words were scarce out of my mouth; when the Count de L***'s post-chaise, with his sister in it, drove hastily by: she had just time to make me a bow of recognition—and of that particular kind of it, which told me she had not yet done with me. She was as good as her look; for, before I had quite finished my supper, her brother's servant came into the room with a billet, in which, she said, she had taken the liberty to charge me with a letter, which I was to present myself to Madame R*** the first morning I had nothing to do at Paris. There was only added, she was sorry, but from what *penchant* she had not considered, that she had been prevented telling me her story—that she still owed it me; and if my rout should ever lay through Brussels, and I had not by then forgot the name of Madame de L***—that Madame de L*** would be glad to discharge her obligation.

Then I will meet thee, said I, fair spirit! at Brussels—'tis only returning from Italy through Germany to Holland, by the rout of Flanders, home—'twill scarce be ten posts out of my way; but were it ten thousand! with what a moral delight will it crown my journey, in sharing in the sickening incidents of a tale of misery told to me by such

a sufferer? to see her weep! and though I cannot dry up the fountain of her tears, what an exquisite sensation is there still left, in wiping them away from off the cheeks of the first and fairest of women, as I'm sitting with my handkerchief in my hand in silence the whole night beside her?

There was nothing wrong in the sentiment; and yet I instantly reproached my heart with it in the bitterest and most reprobate of expressions.

It had ever, as I told the reader, been one of the singular blessings of my life, to be almost every hour of it miserably in love with some one; and my last flame happening to be blown out by a whiff of jealousy on the sudden turn of a corner, I had lighted it up afresh at the pure taper of Eliza but about three months before—swearing as I did it, that it should last me through the whole journey—Why should I dissemble the matter? I had sworn to her eternal fidelity—she had a right to my whole heart—to divide my affections was to lessen them—to expose them, was to risk them: where there is risk, there may be loss:—and what wilt thou have, Yorick! to answer to a heart so full of trust and confidence—so good, so gentle and unrepublishing?

I will not go to Brussels, replied I, interrupting myself—but my imagination went on—I recall'd her looks at that crisis of our

separation, when neither of us had power to say adieu ! I look'd at the picture she had tied in a black riband about my neck—and blush'd as I look'd at it—I would have given the world to have kiss'd it,—but was ashamed.—And shall this tender flower, said I, pressing it between my hands—shall it be smitten to its very root—and smitten, Yorick ! by thee, who hast promised to shelter it in thy breast ?

Eternal fountain of happiness ! said I, kneeling down upon the ground—be thou my witness—and every pure spirit which tastes it, be thou my witness also, that I would not travel to Brussels, unless Eliza went along with me, did the road lead me towards heaven.

In transports of this kind, the heart, in spite of the understanding, will always say too much.

T H E L E T T E R.

A M I E N S.

FORTUNE had not smiled upon La Fleur ; for he had been unsuccessful in his feats of chivalry—and not one thing had offer'd to signalize his zeal for my service from the time he had enter'd into it, which was almost four-and-twenty hours.—The poor soul burn'd with impatience ; and the Count de L***'s servant, coming with the letter, being

the first practicable occasion which offered ; La Fleur had laid hold of it ; and in order to do honour to his master , had taken him into a back parlour in the auberge , and treated him with a cup or two of the best wine in Picardy ; and the Count de L***'s servant in return , and not to be behind-hand in politeness with La Fleur , had taken him back with him to the Count's hôtel. La Fleur's *prevenancy* (for there was a passport in his very looks) soon set every servant in the kitchen at ease with him ; and as a Frenchman , whatever be his talents , has no sort of prudery in shewing them , La Fleur , in less than five minutes , had pull'd out his fife , and leading off the dance himself with the first note , set the *fille de chambre* , the *maitre d'hôtel* , the cook , the scullion , and all the household , dogs and cats , besides an old monkey , a dancing : I suppose there never was a merrier kitchen since the Flood.

Madame de L*** , in passing from her brother's apartments to her own , hearing so much jollity below stairs , rung up her *fille de chambre* to ask about it ; and hearing it was the English gentleman's servant who had set the whole house merry with his pipe , she order'd him up.

As the poor fellow could not present himself empty , he had loaden'd himself in going up stairs with a thousand compliments to

Madame de L***, on the part of his master—added a long apocrypha of inquiries after Madame de L***'s health—told her, that Monsieur his master was *au desespoir* for her re-establishment from the fatigues of her journey—and, to close all, that Monsieur had received the letter which Madame had done him the honour—And he has done me the honour, said Madame de L***, interrupting La Fleur, to send a billet in return.

Madame de L*** had said this with such a tone of reliance upon the fact, that La Fleur had not power to disappoint her expectations—he trembled for my honour—and possibly might not altogether be unconcerned for his own, as a man capable of being attached to a master who could be wanting *en égards vis-à-vis d'une femme*; so that when Madame de L*** asked La Fleur if he had brought a letter—*Oh qu'oui*, said La Fleur: so laying down his hat upon the ground, and taking hold of the flap of his right-side pocket with his left hand; he began to search for the letter with his right—then contrary-wise—*Diable!*—then sought every pocket—pocket by pocket, round, not forgetting his fob—*Peste!*—then La Fleur emptied them upon the floor—pulled out a dirty cravat—a handkerchief—a comb—a whip-lash—a night-cap—then gave a peep into his hat—*Quelle étourderie!* He had left the letter upon the table in the auberge—he would run for it, and be back with it in three minutes.

I had just finished my supper when La Fleur came in to give me an account of his adventure : he told the whole story simply as it was ; and only added , that if Monsieur had forgot (*par hasard*) to answer Madame's letter , the arrangement gave him an opportunity to recover the *faux pas*—and if not, that things were only as they were.

Now I was not altogether sure of my *étiquette* , whether I ought to have wrote or no ; but if I had—a devil himself could not have been angry : 'twas but the officious zeal of a well-meaning creature for my honour ; and however he might have mistook the road—or embarrassed me in so doing—his heart was in no fault—I was under no necessity to write—and what weighed more than all—he did not look as if he had done amiss.

—'Tis all very well , La Fleur , said I.—'Twas sufficient. La Fleur flew out of the room like lightning , and return'd with pen , ink , and paper , in his hand ; and coming up to the table , laid them close before me , with such a delight in his countenance , that I could not help taking up the pen.

I begun and begun again ; and though I had nothing to say , and that nothing might have been express'd in half a dozen lines , I made half a dozen different beginnings , and could no way please myself.

In short I was in no mood to write.

La Fleur stept out and brought a little water in a glass to dilute my ink—then fetch'd sand and seal-wax—It was all one : I wrote, and blotted, and tore off, and burnt, and wrote again—*Le Diable l'emporte !* said I half to myself—I cannot write this self-same letter; throwing the pen down despairingly as I said it.

As soon as I had cast down the pen, La Fleur advanced with the most respectful carriage up to the table, and making a thousand apologies for the liberty he was going to take, told me he had a letter in his pocket wrote by a drummer in his regiment to a corporal's wife, which, he durst say, would suit the occasion.

I had a mind to let the poor fellow have his humour—Then prithee, said I, let me see it.

La Fleur instantly pull'd out a little dirty pocket-book cramm'd full of small letters and billets doux in a sad condition, and laying it upon the table, and then untying the string which held them all together, run them over, one by one, till he came to the letter in question—*La voila !* said he, clapping his hands ; so, unfolding it first, he laid it before me, and retired three steps from the table whilst I read it.

THE LETTER.

MADAME,

JE suis pénétré de la douleur la plus vive, & réduit en même temps au désespoir par ce retour imprévu du Caporal, qui rend notre entrevue de ce soir la chose du monde la plus impossible.

Mais vive la joie!! & toute la mienne sera de penser à vous.

L'amour n'est rien sans sentiment.

Et le sentiment est encore moins sans amour.

On dit qu'on ne doit jamais se désespérer.

On dit aussi que Monsieur le Caporal monte la garde Mercredi—alors ce sera mon tour.

Chacun à son tour.

En attendant—Vive l'amour! & vive la bagatelle!

Je suis, MADAME,

Avec tous les sentimens les plus respectueux & les plus tendres, tout à vous,

JACQUES ROQUE.

It was but changing the Corporal into the Count—and saying nothing about mounting guard on Wednesday—and the letter was

neither right or wrong—so to gratify the poor fellow, who stood trembling for my honour, his own, and the honour of his letter.—I took the cream gently off it, and whipping it up in my own way—I seal'd it up and sent him with it to Madame de L***—and the next morning we pursued our journey to Paris.

P A R I S.

WHEN a man can contest the point by dint of equipage, and carry on all floundering before him with half a dozen lackies and a couple of cooks—'tis very well in such a place as Paris—he may drive in at which end of a street he will.

A poor prince who is weak in cavalry, and whose whole infantry does not exceed a single man, had best quit the field; and signalize himself in the cabinet, if he can get up into it—I say *up into it*—for there is no descending perpendicular amongst 'em with a « *Me voici, mes enfans* »—here I am—whatever many may think.

I own my first sensations, as soon as I was left solitary and alone in my own chamber in the hôtel, were far from being so flattering as I had prefigured them. I walked up gravely to the window in my dusty black coat, and looking through the glass, saw all the world in yellow, blue, and green, running

at the ring of pleasure—The old with broken lances, and in helmets which had lost their vizards—the young in armour bright which shone like gold, be-plumed with each gay feather of the east—all—all—tilting at it like fascinated knights in tournaments of yore for fame and love.—

Alas, poor Yorick ! cried I, what art thou doing here ? On the very first onset of all this glittering clatter, thou art reduced to an atom—seek—seek some winding alley, with a tourniquet at the end of it, where chariot never rolled, or flambeau shot its rays—there thou mayest solace thy soul in converse sweet with some kind *griffet* of a barber's wife, and get into such coteries !—

—May I perish, if I do ! said I pulling out a letter which I had to present to Madame de R***.—I'll wait upon this lady, the very first thing I do. So I called La Fleur to go seek me a barber directly—and come back, and brush my coat.

THE WIG.

PARIS.

WHEN the barber came, he absolutely refused to have any thing to do with my wig: 'twas either above or below his art : I had nothing to do, but to take one ready made of his own recommendation.

—But I fear, friend, said I, this buckle

won't stand.—You may immerge it, replied he, into the ocean, and it will stand.—

What a great scale is every thing upon in this city! thought I.—The utmost stretch of an English periwig-maker's ideas could have gone no further than to have « dipped » it into a pail of water.—What difference! 'tis like time to eternity.

I confess I do hate all cold conceptions; as I do the puny ideas which engender them; and am generally so struck with the great works of nature, that, for my own part, if I could help it, I never would make a comparison less than a mountain at least. All that can be said against the French sublime in this instance of it, is this—that the grandeur is *more* in the word; and *less* in the thing. No doubt, the ocean fills the mind with vast ideas; but Paris being so far inland, it was not likely I should run post a hundred miles out of it, to try the experiment—the Parisian barber meant nothing.—

The pail of water standing beside the great deep, makes certainly but a sorry figure in speech—but 'twill be said—it has one advantage—'tis in the next room, and the truth of the buckle may be tried in it without more ado, in a single moment.

In honest truth, and upon a more candid revision of the matter, the French expression professes more than it performs.

I think I can see the precise and distin-

guishing marks of national characters more in these nonsensical *minutiae*, than in the most important matters of state; where great men of all nations talk and stalk so much alike, that I would not give nine-pence to chuse amongst them.

I was so long in getting from under my barber's hands, that it was too late to think of going with my letter to Madame R*** that night: but when a man is once dressed at all points for going out, his reflections turn to little account: so taking down the name of the Hôtel de Modene, where I lodged, I walked forth without any determination where to go—I shall consider of that, said I, as I walk along.

THE PULSE.

P A R I S.

HAILE, ye small sweet courtesies of life, for smooth do ye make the road of it! like grace and beauty which beget inclinations to love at first sight; 'tis ye who open this door and let the stranger in.

—Pray, Madame, said I, have the goodness to tell me which way I must turn to go to the *Opera comique*:—Most willingly, Monsieur, said she, laying aside her work.—

I had given a cast with my eye into half a dozen shops as I came along, in search of a face not likely to be disordered by such an

interruption ; till at last, this hitting my fancy, I had walked in.

She was working a pair of ruffles as she sat in a low chair, on the far side of the shop facing the door.

—*Tres-volontiers* : most willingly, said she, laying her work down upon a chair next her, and rising up from the low chair she was sitting in, with so cheerful a movement and so cheerful a look, that had I been laying out fifty louis d'or with her, I should have said—« This woman is grateful ».

You must turn, Monsieur, said she, going with me to the door of the shop, and pointing the way down the street I was to take—you must turn first to your left hand—*mais prenez garde*—there are two turns : and be so good as to take the second—then go down a little way, and you'll see a church, and when you are past it, give yourself the trouble to turn directly to the right, and that will lead you to the foot of the *Pont neuf*, which you must cross—and there, any one will do himself the pleasure to shew you—

She repeated her instructions three times over to me, with the same good-natured patience the third time as the first—and if tones and manners have a meaning, which certainly they have, unless to hearts which shut them out—she seem'd really interested, that I should not lose myself.

I will not suppose it was the woman's

beauty; notwithstanding she was the handsomest grisset, I think, I ever saw, which had much to do with the sense I had of her courtesy; only I remember, when I told her how much I was obliged to her, that I looked very full in her eyes,—and that I repeated my thanks as often as she had done her instructions.

I had not got ten paces from the door, before I found I had forgot every tittle of what she had said—so looking back, and seeing her still standing in the door of the shop, as if to look whether I went right or not—I returned back, to ask her whether the first turn was to my right or left—for that I had absolutely forgot.—Is it possible! said she, half laughing.—'Tis very possible, replied I, when a man is thinking more of a woman, than of her good advice.

As this was the real truth—she took it, as every woman takes a matter of right, with a slight courtesy.

—*Attendez*, said she, laying her hand upon my arm to detain me, whilst she called a lad out of the back-shop to get ready a parcel of gloves. I am just going to send him, said she, with a packet into that quarter, and if you will have the complaisance to step in, it will be ready in a moment, and he shall attend you to the place.—So I walk'd in with her to the far side of the shop, and taking up the ruffle in my hand which she laid up-

on the chair, as if I had a mind to sit, she sat down herself in her low chair, and I instantly sat myself down beside her.

—He will be ready, Monsieur, said she, in a moment—And in that moment, replied I, most willingly would I say something very civil to you for all these courtesies. Any one may do a casual act of good nature, but a continuation of them shews it is a part of the temperature; and certainly, added I, if it is in the same blood which comes from the heart, which descends to the extremes (touching her wrist) I am sure you must have one of the best pulses of any woman in the world—Feel it, said she, holding out her arm. So laying down my hat, I took hold of her fingers in one hand, and applied the two fore-fingers of my other to the artery.—

—Would to heaven! my dear Eugenius, thou hadst passed by, and beheld me sitting in my black coat, and in my lack-a-day-fical manner, counting the throbs of it, one by one, with as much true devotion as if I had been watching the critical ebb or flow of her fever—How wouldst thou have laugh'd and moralized upon my new profession!—and thou shouldst have laugh'd and moralized on—Trust me, my dear Eugenius, I should have said, «there are worse occupations in this world *than feeling a woman's pulse.*».—But a grisset's! thou wouldst have said—and in an open shop! Yorick—

—So much the better : for when my views are direct , Eugenius , I care not if all the world saw me feel it.

THE HUSBAND.

PARIS.

I HAD counted twenty pulsations , and was going on fast towards the fortieth , when her husband coming unexpected from a back parlour into the shop , put me a little out in my reckoning—'Twas nobody but her husband , she said—so I began a fresh score—Monfieur is so good , quoth she , as he pass'd by us , as to give himself the trouble of feeling my pulse—The husband took off his hat , and making me a bow , said I did him too much honour—and having said that , he put on his hat , and walk'd out.

Good God ! said I to myself , as he went out—and can this man be the husband of this woman ?

Let it not torment the few who know what must have been the grounds of this exclamation , if I explain it to those who do not.

In London , a shop-keeper and a shop-keeper's wife seem to be one bone and one flesh : in the several endowments of mind and body , sometimes the one , sometimes the other has it , so as in general to be upon a par , and to tally with each other as nearly as a man and wife need to do.

In

In Paris, there are scarce two orders of beings more different: for the legislative and executive powers of the shop not resting in the husband, he seldom comes there—in some dark and dismal room behind, he sits commerceless in his thrum night-cap, the same rough son of Nature that Nature left him.

The genius of a people where nothing but the monarchy is *salique*, having ceded this department, with sundry others, totally to the women—by a continual higgling with customers of all ranks and sizes, from morning to night, like so many rough pebbles shook long together in a bag, by amicable collisions they have worn down their asperities and sharp angles, and not only become round and smooth, but will receive, some of them, a polish like a brilliant—*Monsieur le Mari* is little better than the stone under your foot.—

—Surely—surely, man! it is not good for thee to sit alone—thou wast made for social intercourse and gentle greetings, and this improvement of our natures from it, I appeal to, as my evidence.

—And how does it beat, *Monsieur*? said she.—With all the benignity, said I, looking quietly in her eyes, that I expected—She was going to say something civil in return—but the lad came into the shop with the gloves—*A propos*, said I, I want a couple of pair myself.

A SENTIMENTAL
THE GLOVES.

P A R I S.

THE beautiful grisset rose up when I said this, and going behind the counter, reach'd down a parcel, and untied it: I advanced to the side over-against her; they were all too large. The beautiful grisset measured them one by one across my hand—It would not alter the dimensions—She begg'd I would try a single pair, which seemed to be the least—She held it open—my hand slipp'd into it at once—It will not do, said I, shaking my head a little—No, said she, doing the same thing.

There are certain combined looks of simple subtlety—where whim, and sense, and seriousness, and nonsense, are so blended, that all the languages of Babel set loose together, could not express them—they are communicated and caught so instantaneously, that you can scarce say which party is the infecter. I leave it to your men of words to swell pages about it—It is enough in the present to say again, the gloves would not do; so, folding our hands within our arms, we both loll'd upon the counter—it was narrow, and there was just room for the parcel to lay between us.

The beautiful grisset look'd sometimes at the gloves, then side-ways to the window,

then at the gloves—and then at me. I was not disposed to break silence—I follow'd her example: so I looked at the gloves, then to the window, then at the gloves, and then at her—and so on alternately.

I found I lost considerably in every attack—she had a quick black eye, and shot through two such long and silken eye-lashes with such penetration, that she look'd into my very heart and reins—It may seem strange, but I could actually feel she did.—

It is no matter, said I, taking up a couple of the pairs next me, and putting them into my pocket.

I was sensible the beautiful grisset had not ask'd above a single livre above the price—I wish'd she had ask'd a livre more, and was puzzling my brains how to bring the matter about—Do you think, my dear Sir, said she, mistaking my embarrassment, that I could ask a *sous* too much of a stranger—and of a stranger whose politeness, more than his want of gloves, has done me the honour to lay himself at my mercy?—*M'en croyez-vous capable?*—Faith! not I, said I; and if you were, you are welcome—So counting the money into her hand, and with a lower bow than one generally makes to a shop-keeper's wife, I went out, and her lad with his parcel followed me.

THE TRANSLATION.

P A R I S.

THERE was no body in the box I was let into, but a kindly old French officer. I love the character, not only because I honour the man whose manners are softened by a profession which makes bad men worse; but that I once knew one—for he is no more—and why should I not rescue one page from violation by writing his name in it, and telling the world it was Captain Tobias Shandy, the dearest of my flock and friends, whose philanthropy I never think of, at this long distance from his death—but my eyes gush out with tears. For his sake, I have a predilection for the whole corps of veterans; and so I strode over the two back rows of benches, and placed myself beside him.

The old officer was reading attentively a small pamphlet, it might be the book of the opera, with a large pair of spectacles. As soon as I sat down, he took his spectacles off, and putting them into a shagreen case, return'd them and the book into his pocket together. I half rose up, and made him a bow.

Translate this into any civilized language in the world—the sense is this;

“ Here’s a poor stranger come into the
” box—he seems as if he knew no body :

» and is never likely, was he to be seven
» years in Paris, if every man he comes
» near keeps his spectacles upon his nose—
» 'tis shutting the door of conversation ab-
» solutely in his face—and using him worse
» than a German ».

The French officer might as well have said it all aloud; and if he had, I should in course have put the bow I made him into French too, and told him: « I was » sensible of his attention, and return'd him » a thousand thanks for it ».

There is not a secret so aiding to the progress of sociality, as to get master of this *short hand*, and to be quick in rendering the several turns of looks and limbs, with all their inflections and delineations, into plain words. For my own part, by long habitude, I do it so mechanically, that when I walk the streets of London, I go translating all the way; and have more than once stood behind in the circle, where not three words have been said, and have brought off twenty different dialogues with me, which I could have fairly wrote down and sworn to.

I was going one evening to Martini's concert at Milan, and was just entering the door of the hall, when the *Marquesina di F**** was coming out in a sort of a hurry—she was almost upon me before I saw her; so I gave a spring to one side to let her pass—She had done the same, and on the same

side too ; so we ran our heads together : she instantly got to the other side to get out ; I was just as unfortunate as she had been , for I had sprung to that side , and opposed her passage again—We both flew together to the other side , and then back—and so on—it was ridiculous ; we both blush'd intolerably ; so I did , at last , the thing I should have done at first—I stood stock still , and the Marquesina had no more difficulty. I had no power to go into the room , till I had made her so much reparation as to wait and follow her with my eye to the end of the passage—She look'd back twice , and walk'd along it rather side-ways , as if she would make room for any one coming up stairs to pass her—No, said I—that's a vile translation : the Marquesina has a right to the best apology I can make her : and that opening is left for me to do it in—so I ran and begg'd pardon for the embarrassment I had given her , saying it was my intention to have made her way. She answered , she was guided by the same intention towards me—so we reciprocally thank'd each other. She was at the top of the stairs ; and seeing no *chichesbee* near her , I begg'd to hand her to her coach—so we went down the stairs , stopping at every third step to talk of the concert and the adventure—Upon my word , Madame , said I , when I had handed her in , I made six different efforts to let you go out—And I

made six efforts, replied she, to let you enter—I wish to heaven you would make a seventh, said I—With all my heart,—said she, making room—Life is too short to be long about the forms of it—so I instantly stepp'd in, and she carried me home with her.—And what became of the concert, St. Cecilia, who, I suppose, was at it, knows more than I.

I will only add, that the connection which arose out of the translation, gave me more pleasure than any one I had the honour to make in Italy.

T H E D W A R F.

P A R I S.

I HAD never heard the remark made by any one in my life, except by one; and who that was, will probably come out in this chapter; so that being pretty much unprepossessed, there must have been grounds for what struck me the moment I cast my eyes over the *parterre*—and that was, the unaccountable sport of nature, in forming such numbers of dwarfs—No doubt, she sports at certain times in almost every corner of the world: but in Paris, there is no end to her amusements—The goddess seems almost as merry as she is wise.

As I carried my idea out of the *opera comique* with me, I measured every body

I saw walking in the streets by it—Melancholy application! especially where the size was extremely little—the face extremely dark—the eyes quick—the nose long—the teeth white—the jaw prominent—to see so many miserales, by force of accidents, driven out of their own proper class into the very verge of another, which it gives me pain to write down—every third man a pygmy!—some by ricketty heads and hump backs;—others by bandy legs—a third set arrested by the hand of Nature in the sixth and seventh years of their growth—a fourth, in their perfect and natural state; like dwarf apple-trees; from the first rudiments and stamina of their existence, never meant to grow higher.

A medical traveller might say, 'tis owing to undue bandages—a splenetic one, to want of air—and an inquisitive traveller, to fortify the system, may measure the height of their houses—the narrowness of their streets, and in how few feet square in the sixth and seventh stories such numbers of the *Bourgeoise* eat and sleep together; but I remember, Mr. Shandy the elder, who accounted for nothing like any body else, in speaking one evening of these matters, averred, that children, like other animals, might be increased almost to any size, provided they came right into the world; but the misery was, the citizens of Paris were

so coop'd up, that they had not actually room enough to get them—I did not call it getting any thing, said he—'tis getting nothing—Nay, continued he, rising in his argument, 'tis getting worse than nothing, when all you have got, after twenty, or five and twenty years of the tenderest care, and most nutritious aliment bestowed upon it, shall not at least be as high as my leg. Now, Mr. Shandy being very short, there could be nothing more said of it.

As this is not a work of reasoning, I leave the solution as I found it, and content myself with the truth only of the remark, which is verified in every lane and by-lane of Paris. I was walking down that which leads from the Carousal to the Palais Royal, and observing a little boy in some distress at the side of the gutter, which ran down the middle of it, I took hold of his hand, and help'd him over. Upon turning up his face to look at him after, I perceived he was about forty—Never mind, said I; some good body will do as much for me when I am ninety.

I feel some little principles within me, which incline me to be merciful towards this poor blighted part of my species, who have neither size or strength to get on in the world—I cannot bear to see one of them trod upon; and had scarce got seated beside my old French officer, ere the disgust was

exercised, by seeing the very thing happen under the box we sat in.

At the end of the orchestra, and betwixt that and the first side-box, there is a small esplanade left, where, when the house is full, numbers of all ranks take sanctuary. Though you stand, as in the *parterre*, you pay the same price as in the orchestra. A poor defenceless being of this order had got thrust somehow or other into this luckless place—the night was hot, and he was surrounded by beings two feet and a half higher than himself. The dwarf suffered inexpressibly on all sides; but the thing which incommoded him most, was a tall corpulent German, near seven feet high, who stood directly betwixt him and all possibility of his seeing either the stage or the actors. The poor dwarf did all he could to get a peep at what was going forwards, by seeking for some little opening betwixt the German's arm and his body, trying first one side, then the other; but the German stood square in the most unaccommodating posture that can be imagined—the dwarf might as well have been placed at the bottom of the deepest draw-well in Paris; so he civilly reach'd up his hand to the German's sleeve, and told him his distress—The German turn'd his head back, look'd down upon him as Goliath did upon David—and unfeelingly resumed his posture.

I was just then taking a pinch of snuff out of my monk's little horn-box—And how would thy meek and courteous spirit, my dear monk! so temper'd to *bear and forbear*!—how sweetly would it have lent an ear to this poor soul's complaint!

The old French officer, seeing me lift up my eyes with an emotion, as I made the apostrophe, took the liberty to ask me what was the matter—I told him the story in three words; and added, how inhuman it was.

By this time the dwarf was driven to extremes, and in his first transports, which are generally unreasonable, had told the German he would cut off his long queue with his knife.—The German look'd back coolly, and told him he was welcome, if he could reach it.

An injury, sharpened by an insult, be it to whom it will, makes every man of sentiment a party: I could have leaped out of the box, to have redressed it.—The old French officer did it with much less confusion; for leaning a little over, and nodding to a centinel, and pointing at the same time with his finger at the distress—the centinel made his way to it.—There was no occasion to tell the grievance—the thing told itself; so thrusting back the German instantly with his musket—he took the poor dwarf by the hand, and placed him before him—This is noble! said I, clapping my

hands together—And yet you would not permit this, said the old officer, in England.

—In England, dear Sir, said I, *we sit all at our ease.*

The old French officer would have set me at unity with myself, in case I had been at variance,—by saying it was a *bon mot*—and as a *bon mot* is always worth something at Paris, he offered me a pinch of snuff.

T H E R O S E.

P A R I S.

IT was now my turn to ask the old French officer : « What was the matter? » for a cry of « *Haussés les mains, Monsieur l'Abbé,* » re-echoed from a dozen different parts of the *parterre*, was as unintelligible to me, as my apostrophe to the monk had been to him.

He told me, it was some poor Abbé in one of the upper *loges*, who he supposed had got planted *perdu* behind a couple of griffets, in order to see the opera, and that the *parterre* espying him, were insisting upon his holding up both his hands during the representation.—And can it be supposed, said I, that an ecclesiastic would pick the griffet's pockets? The old French officer smiled, and whispering in my ear, open'd a door of knowledge which I had no idea of.—

Good God! said I, turning pale with astonishment—is it possible, that a people

so smit with sentiment, should at the same time be so unclean, and so unlike themselves—*Quelle grossièreté!* added I.

The French officer told me, it was an illiberal sarcasm at the church, which had begun in the theatre about the time the *Tartuffe* was given in it, by Moliere—but, like other remains of Gothic manners, was declining—Every nation, continued he, have their refinements and *grossièretés*, in which they take the lead, and lose it of one another by turns—that he had been in most countries, but never in one where he found not some delicacies, which others seem to want. *Le POUR & le CONTRE se trouvent en chaque nation*; there is a balance, said he, of good and bad every where; and nothing but the knowing it is so, can emancipate one half of the world from the prepossessions which it holds against the other—that the advantage of travel, as it regarded the *savoir vivre*, was by seeing a great deal both of men and manners: it taught us mutual toleration; and mutual toleration, concluded he, making me a bow, taught us mutual love.

The old French officer delivered this with an air of such candour and good sense, as coincided with my first favourable impressions of his character—I thought I loved the man; but I fear I mistook the object—'twas my own way of thinking—the difference was, I could not have expressed it half so well.

It is alike troublesome to both the rider and his beast—if the latter goes pricking up his ears, and starting all the way at every object which he never saw before—I have as little torment of this kind as any creature alive; and yet I honestly confess, that many a thing gave me pain, and that I blush'd at many a word the first month—which I found inconsequent and perfectly innocent the second.

Madame de Rambouliet, after an acquaintance of about six weeks with her, had done me the honour to take me in her coach about two leagues out of town—Of all women, Madame de Rambouliet is the most correct; and I never wish to see one of more virtues and purity of heart—In our return back, Madame de Rambouliet desired me to pull the cord—I ask'd her if she wanted any thing—*Rien que pour p[er]ce*, said Madame de Rambouliet.—

unchanged
see note above

Grieve not, gentle traveller, to let Madame de Rambouliet on—And, ye fair mystic nymphs! go each one *pluck your rose*, and scatter them in your path—for Madame de Rambouliet did no more—I handed Madame de Rambouliet out of the coach; and had I been the priest of the chaste CASTALIA, I could not have served at her fountain with a more respectful decorum.

END OF VOLUME I.

A
SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY
THROUGH
FRANCE AND ITALY.

BY
MR. YORICK.
VOL. II.

SENTIMENTAL JOURNAL

FRANCIS AND SALLY

YOLIC

VOL. II

A
SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

THROUGH
FRANCE AND ITALY.

THE FILLE DE CHAMBRE.

P A R I S.

WHAT the old French officer had delivered upon travelling, bringing Polonius's advice to his son upon the same subject into my head—and that bringing in Hamlet; and Hamlet, the rest of Shakespeare's works, I stopped at the Quai de Conti in my return home, to purchase the whole set.

The bookseller said he had not a set in the world—*Comment!* said I; taking one up out of a set which lay upon the counter betwixt us—He said, they were sent him only to be got bound, and were to be sent back to Versailles in the morning to the Count de B——

—And does the Count de B——, said I, read Shakespeare! *C'est un Esprit fort*, replied the bookseller.—He loves English books,

and, what is more to his honour, Monsieur, he loves the English too. You speak this so civilly, said I, that it is enough to oblige an Englishman to lay out a louis d'or or two at your shop—The bookseller made a bow, and was going to say something, when a young decent girl about twenty, who, by her air and dress, seemed to be *filles de chambre* to some devout woman of fashion, came into the shop and asked for *Les Egaremens du Cœur & de l'Esprit*: the bookseller gave her the book directly; she pulled out a little green sattin purse run round with a riband of the same colour, and putting her finger and thumb into it, she took out the money, and paid for it. As I had nothing more to stay me in the shop, we both walked out at the door together.

—And what have you to do, my dear, said I, with *The wanderings of the heart*, who scarce know yet you have one? nor, till love has first told you it, or some faithless shepherd has made it ache, can'st thou ever be sure it is so.—*Dieu m'en garde!* said the girl.—With reason, said I—for if it is a good one, it is a pity it should be stolen: it is a little treasure to thee, and gives a better air to your face, than if it was dressed out with pearls.

The young girl listened with a submissive attention, holding her sattin purse by its riband in her hand all the time.—It is a very

small one, said I, taking hold of the bottom of it—she held it towards me—and there is very little in it, my dear, said I; but be but as good as thou art handsome, and heaven will fill it. I had a parcel of crowns in my hand to pay for Shakespeare; and, as she had let go the purse intirely, I put a single one in; and tying up the riband in a bow-knot, returned it to her.

The young girl made me more an humble courtesy than a low one—it was one of those quiet, thankful sinkings, where the spirit bows itself down—the body does no more than tell it. I never gave a girl a crown in my life which gave me the half pleasure.

My advice, my dear, would not have been worth a pin to you, said I, if I had not given this along with it: but now, when you see the crown, you will remember it—so do not, my dear, lay it out in ribands.

Upon my word, Sir, said the girl, earnestly, I am incapable—in saying which, as is usual in little bargains of honour, she gave me her hand—*En vérité, Monsieur, je mettrai cet argent à part*, said she.

When a virtuous convention is made betwixt man and woman, it sanctifies their most private walks: so notwithstanding it was dusky, yet, as both our roads lay the same way, we made no scruple of walking along the Quai de Conti together.

She made me a second courtesy in setting

off, and before we got twenty yards from the door, as if she had not done enough before, she made a sort of a little stop, to tell me again—she thanked me.

It was a small tribute, I told her, which I could not avoid paying to virtue, and would not be mistaken in the person I had been rendering it to for the world—but I see innocence, my dear, in your face—and foul befall the man who ever lays a snare in its way!

The girl seemed affected some way or other with what I said—she gave a low sigh—I found I was not impowered to inquire at all after it—so said nothing more till I got to the corner of the Rue de Nevers, where we were to part.

—But is this the way, my dear, said I, to the hôtel de Modene? she told me it was—or, that I might go by the Rue de Guenegaud, which was the next turn—Then I will go, my dear, by the Rue de Guenegaud, said I, for two reasons; first I shall please myself, and next I shall give you the protection of my company as far on your way as I can. The girl was sensible I was civil—and said she wished the hôtel de Modene was in the Rue des Sts. Peres.—You live there? said I.—She told me she was *fille de chambre* to Madame R.... —Good God! said I, it is the very lady for whom I have brought a letter from

Amiens—The girl told me, that Madame R...., she believed, expected a stranger with a letter, and was impatient to see him—so I desired the girl to present my compliments to Madame R...., and say I would certainly wait upon her in the morning.

We stood still at the corner of the Rue de Nevers whilst this passed—We then stopped a moment whilst she disposed of her *Egaremens du Cœur*, &c. more commodiously than carrying them in her hand—they were two volumes; so I held the second for her, whilst she put the first into her pocket; and then she held her pocket, and I put in the other after it.

It is sweet to feel by what fine-spun threads our affections are drawn together.

We set off afresh, and as she took her third step, the girl put her hand within my arm—I was just bidding her—but she did it of herself, with that undeliberating simplicity, which shewed it was out of her head that she had never seen me before. For my own part, I felt the conviction of consanguinity so strongly, that I could not help turning half round to look in her face, and see if I could trace out any thing in it of a family likeness—Tut! said I, are we not all relations?

When we arrived at the turning up of the Rue de Guenegaud, I stopped to bid her adieu for good and all: the girl would

thank me again for my company and kindness—She bid me adieu twice—I repeated it as often; and so cordial was the parting between us, that had it happened any where else, I am not sure but I should have signed it with a kiss of charity, as warm and holy as an apostle.

But in Paris, as none kiss each other but the men—I did, what amounted to the same thing—I bid God bless her.

THE PASSPORT.

PARIS.

WHEN I got home to my hôtel, La Fleur told me I had been inquired after by the Lieutenant de Police—The deuce take it! said I—I know the reason. It is time the reader should know it, for in the order of things in which it happened, it was omitted; not that it was out of my head, but that, had I told it then, it might have been forgot now—and now is the time I want it.

I had left London with so much precipitation, that it never entered my mind that we were at war with France, and had reached Dover, and looked through my glass at the hills beyond Boulogne, before the idea presented itself; and with this in its train, that there was no getting there without a passport. Go but to the end of a street, I have a mortal aversion for returning back no

wiser than I set out ; and as this was one of the greatest efforts I had ever made for knowledge , I could less bear the thoughts of it : so hearing the Count de **** had hired the packet , I begged he would take me in his *suite*. The Count had some little knowledge of me , so made little or no difficulty—only said , his inclination to serve me could reach no farther than Calais ; as he was to return by way of Brussels to Paris : however , when I had once passed there , I might get to Paris without interruption ; but that in Paris I must make friends , and shift for myself—Let me go to Paris , Monsieur le Comte , said I—and I shall do very well. So I embarked , and never thought more of the matter.

When La Fleur told me the Lieutenant de Police had been inquiring after me—the thing instantly recurred—and by the time La Fleur had well told me , the master of the hôtel came into my room to tell me the same thing , with this addition to it , that my passport had been particularly asked after : the master of the hôtel concluded with saying , he hoped I had one—Not I , faith ! said I.

The master of the hôtel retired three steps from me , as from an infected person , as I declared this—and poor La Fleur advanced three steps towards me , and with that sort of movement which a good soul makes to succour a distressed one—the fellow won my

heart by it; and from that single *trait*, I knew his character as perfectly, and could rely upon it as firmly, as if he had served me with fidelity for seven years.

Monseigneur! cried the master of the hôtel—but recollecting himself as he made the exclamation, he instantly changed the tone of it—If Monsieur, said he, has not a passport, (*apparemment*) in all likelihood, he has friends in Paris who can procure him one.—Not that I know of, quoth I with an air of indifference—Then *certain*, replied he, you will be sent to the Bastille or the Châtelet, *au moins*. Poo! said I, the king of France is a good-natured soul—he will hurt no body.—*Cela n'empêche pas*, said he—you will certainly be sent to the Bastille to-morrow morning—But I have taken your lodgings for a month, answered I, and I will not quit them a day before the time, for all the kings of France in the world. La Fleur whispered in my ear, that no body could oppose the king of France.

Pardi! said my host, *ces Messieurs Anglois sont des gens très-extraordinaires*—and having both said and sworn it—he went out.

THE PASSPORT.

THE HOTEL AT PARIS.

I COULD not find in my heart to torture La Fleur's with a serious look upon the subject

ject of my embarrassment, which was the reason I had treated it so cavalierly : and to shew him how light it lay upon my mind, I dropt the subject entirely ; and whilst he waited upon me at supper, talked to him with more than usual gaiety about Paris, and of the *opera comique*.—La Fleur had been there himself, and had followed me thro' the streets as far as the bookseller's shop ; but seeing me come out with the young *fille de chambre*, and that we walked down the Quai de Conti together, La Fleur deemed it unnecessary to follow me a step further—so making his own reflections upon it ; he took a shorter cut—and got to the hôtel in time to be informed of the affair of the Police against my arrival.

As soon as the honest creature had taken away, and gone down to sup himself, I then began to think a little seriously about my situation.—

—And here, I know, Eugenius, thou wilt smile at the remembrance of a short dialogue which passed betwixt us the moment I was going to set out—I must tell it here.

Eugenius, knowing that I was as little subject to be overburthened with money as thought, had drawn me aside to interrogate me how much I had taken care for ; upon telling him the exact sum, Eugenius shook his head, and said it would not do ; so pull-

E

ed out his purse in order to empty it into mine.—I have enough in conscience, Eugenius, said I.—Indeed, Yorick, you have not, replied Eugenius—I know France and Italy better than you.—But you do not consider, Eugenius, said I, refusing his offer, that before I have been three days in Paris, I shall take care to say or do something or other for which I shall get clapped up into the Bastille, and that I shall live there a couple of months intirely at the king of France's expence—I beg pardon, said Eugenius, drily: really I had forgot that resource.

Now the event I treated gaily came seriously to my door.

Is it folly, or nonchalance, or philosophy, or pertinacity—or what is it in me, that, after all, when La Fleur had gone down stairs, and I was quite alone, that I could not bring down my mind to think of it otherwise than I had then spoken of it to Eugenius?

—And as for the Bastille! the terror is in the word.—Make the most of it you can, said I to myself, the Bastille is but another word for a tower, and a tower is but another word for a house you cannot get out of—Mercy on the gouty! for they are in it twice a year—but with nine livres a day, and pen, and ink, and paper, and patience, albeit a man cannot get out, he may do

very well within—at least for a month or six weeks; at the end of which, if he is a harmless fellow, his innocence appears, and he comes out a better and wiser man than he went in.

I had some occasion (I forgot what) to step into the court-yard, as I settled this account, and remember I walked down stairs in no small triumph with the conceit of my reasoning—Beshrew the *sombre* pencil! said I vauntingly—for I envy not its powers, which paints the evils of life with so hard and deadly a colouring. The mind sits terrified at the objects she has magnified herself, and blackened: reduce them to their proper size and hue, she overlooks them—It is true, said I, correcting the proposition—the Bastille is not an evil to be despised—but strip it of its towers—fill up the fosse—unbarricade the doors—call it simply a confinement, and suppose it is some tyrant of a distemper—and not of a man which holds you in it—the evil vanishes, and you bear the other half without complaint.

I was interrupted in the hey-day of this soliloquy, with a voice which I took to be of a child, which complained «it could not get out».—I looked up and down the passage, and seeing neither man, woman, or child, I went out without further attention.

In my return back through the passage,

I heard the same words repeated twice over; and looking up, I saw it was a starling hung in a little cage.—“I can’t get out—I can’t get out”, said the starling.

I stood looking at the bird: and to every person who came through the passage it ran fluttering to the side towards which they approached it, with the same lamentation of its captivity.—“I can’t get out”, said the starling—God help thee! said I, but I will let thee out, cost what it will. So I turned about the cage to get the door; it was twisted and double twisted so fast with wire, there was no getting it open without pulling the cage to pieces—I took both hands to it.

The bird flew to the place where I was attempting his deliverance, and thrusting his head through the trellis, pressed his breast against it, as if impatient—I fear, poor creature! said I, I cannot set thee at liberty.—“No”, said the starling.—“I can’t get out—I can’t get out”, said the starling.

I vow, I never had my affections more tenderly awakened; or do I remember an incident in my life, where the dissipated spirits, to which my reason had been a bubble, were so suddenly called home. Mechanical as the notes were, yet so true in tune to nature were they chanted, that in one moment they overthrew all my systematic reasonings upon the Bastille; and I

heavily walked up stairs, unsaying every word I had said in going down them.

Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, Slavery! said I—still thou art a bitter draught; and though thousands in all ages have been made to drink of thee, thou art no less bitter on that account—It is thou, thrice sweet and gracious Goddess, addressing myself to LIBERTY, whom all in public or in private worship, whose taste is grateful, and ever will be so, till NATURE herself shall change—no *tint* of words can spot thy snowy mantle, or chymic power turn thy sceptre into iron—with thee to smile upon him as he eats his crust, the swain is happier than his monarch, from whose court thou art exiled—Gracious heaven! cried I, kneeling down upon the last step but one in my ascent—grant me but health, thou great Bestower of it, and give me but this fair Goddess as my companion—and shower down thy mitres, if it seems good unto thy divine providence, upon those heads which are aching for them.

THE CAPTIVE.

P A R I S.

THE bird in his cage pursued me into my room; I sat down close to my table, and leaning my head upon my hand, I began to figure to myself the miseries of confine-

ment. I was in a right frame for it, and so I gave full scope to my imagination.

I was going to begin with the millions of my fellow-creatures, born to no inheritance but slavery; but finding, however affecting the picture was, that I could not bring it near me, and that the multitude of sad groups in it did but distract me—

—I took a single captive, and having first shut him up in his dungeon, I then looked through the twilight of his grated door to take his picture.

I beheld his body half wasted away with long expectation and confinement, and felt what kind of sickness of the heart it was which arises from hope deferred. Upon looking nearer I saw him pale and feverish: in thirty years the western breeze had not once fanned his blood—he had seen no sun, no moon in all that time—nor had the voice of friend or kinsman breathed through his lattice:—his children—

—But here my heart began to bleed—and I was forced to go on with another part of the portrait.

He was sitting upon the ground upon a little straw in the furthest corner of his dungeon, which was alternately his chair and bed: a little calendar of small sticks were laid at the head, notched all over with the dismal days and nights he had passed there—he had one of these little sticks in his hand,

and with a rusty nail he was etching another day of misery to add to the heap. As I darkened the little light he had, he lifted up a hopeless eye towards the door, then cast it down—shook his head, and went on with his work of affliction. I heard his chains upon his legs, as he turned his body to lay his little stick upon the bundle—He gave a deep sigh—I saw the iron enter into his soul—I burst into tears—I could not sustain the picture of confinement which my fancy had drawn—I started up from my chair, and calling La Fleur, I bid him bespeak me a *remise*, and have it ready at the door of the hôtel by nine in the morning.

—I will go directly, said I, myself, to Monsieur le Duc de Choiseul.

La Fleur would have put me to bed; but, not willing he should see any thing upon my cheeks, which would cost the honest fellow a heart-ach—I told him I would go to bed by myself—and bid him go do the same.

THE STARLING.

ROAD TO VERSAILLES.

I GOT into my *remise* the hour I promised: La Fleur got up behind, and I bid the coachman make the best of his way to Versailles.

As there was nothing in this road, or

rather nothing which I look for in travelling; I cannot fill up the blank better than with a short history of this self-same bird, which became the subject of the last chapter.

Whilst the Honourable Mr.**** was waiting for a wind at Dover, it had been caught upon the cliffs before it could well fly, by an English lad who was his groom; who, not caring to destroy it, had taken it in his breast into the packet—and by course of feeding it, and taking it once under his protection, in a day or two grew fond of it, and got it safe along with him to Paris.

At Paris the lad had laid out a livre in a little cage for the starling; and as he had little to do better the five months his master staid there, he taught it, in his mother's tongue, the four simple words—(and no more)—to which I owed myself so much its debtor.

Upon his master's going on for Italy—the lad had given it to the master of the hôtel—But his little song for liberty being in an *unknown* language at Paris—the bird had little or no store set by him—so La Fleur bought both him and his cage for me for a bottle of Burgundy.

In my return from Italy, I brought him with me to the country in whose language he had learned his notes—and telling the story of him to Lord A—Lord A begged the bird of me—in a week, Lord A gave him to

Lord B—Lord B made a present of him to Lord C—and Lord C's gentleman sold him to Lord D's for a shilling—Lord D gave him to Lord E—and so on—half round the alphabet—From that rank he passed into the lower house, and passed the hands of as many commoners—But as all these wanted to *get in*—and my bird wanted to get out—he had almost as little store set by him in London as in Paris.

It is impossible but many of my readers must have heard of him; and if any, by mere chance, have ever seen him—I beg leave to inform them, that that bird was my bird,—or some vile copy set up to represent him.

I have nothing further to add upon him, but that from that time to this, I have born this

poor starling as the crest to my arms.—
Thus:



—And let the heralds officers twist his
neck about if they dare.

THE ADDRESS.

VERSAILLES.

I SHOULD not like to have my ennemy take a view of my mind, when I am going to ask protection of any man: for which reason, I generally endeavour to protect myself; but this going to Monsieur le Duc de C**** was an act of compulsion—had it been an act of choice, I should have done it, I suppose, like other people.

How many mean plans of dirty address; as I went along, did my servile heart form! I deserved the Bastille for every one of them.

Then nothing would serve me, when I got within sight of Versailles, but putting words and sentences together, and conceiving attitudes and tones to wreath myself into Monsieur le Duc de C*****'s good graces—This will do—said I—Just as well, retorted I again, as a coat carried up to him by an adventurous taylor, without taking his measure—Fool! continued I—see Monsieur le Duc's face first—observe what character is written in it; take notice in what posture he stands to hear you—mark the turns and expressions of his body and limbs—And for the tone—the first sound which comes from his lips will give it you; and from all these together you will compound an address

at once upon the spot, which cannot disgust the Duke—the ingredients are his own, and most likely to go down.

Well ! said I, I wish it well over—Coward again ! as if man to man was not equal throughout the whole surface of the globe ; and if in the field—why not face to face in the cabinet too ? And trust me, Yorick, whenever it is not so, man is false to himself ; and betrays his own succours ten times, where nature does it once. Go to the Duc de C... with the Bastille in thy looks—my life for it ; thou wilt be sent back to Paris in half an hour, with an escort.

I believe so, said I—Then I will go to the Duke, by Heaven ! with all the gaiety and debonairness in the world.—

—And there you are wrong again, replied I.—A heart at ease, Yorick, flies into no extremes—it is ever on its centre—Well ! well ! cried I, as the coachman turned in at the gates—I find I shall do very well : and by the time he had wheeled round the court, and brought me up to the door, I found myself so much the better for my own lecture, that I neither ascended the steps like a victim to justice, who was to part with life upon the topmast,—nor did I mount them with a skip and a couple of strides, as I do when I fly up, Eliza ! to thee, to meet it.

As I entered the door of the saloon, I was met by a person who possibly might be

the *maître d'hôtel*, but had more the air of one of the under secretaries, who told me the Duc de C.... was busy—I am utterly ignorant, said I, of the forms of obtaining an audience, being an absolute stranger, and what is worse in the present conjuncture of affairs, being an Englishman too.—He replied, that did not increase the difficulty.—I made him a slight bow, and told him I had something of importance to say to Monsieur le Duc. The secretary looked towards the stairs, as if he was about to leave me to carry up this account to some one.—But I must not mislead you, said I—for what I have to say is of no manner of importance to Monsieur le Duc de C....—but of great importance to myself.—*C'est une autre affaire*, replied he.—Not at all, said I, to a man of gallantry.—But pray, good Sir, continued I; when can a stranger hope to have *access*? In not less than two hours, said he, looking at his watch. The number of equipages in the court-yard seemed to justify the calculation, that I could have no nearer a prospect—and as walking backwards and forwards in the saloon, without a soul to commune with, was for the time as bad as being in the Bastille itself, I instantly went back to my *remise*, and bid the coachman drive me to the *cordon bleu*, which was the nearest hôtel.

I think there is a fatality in it—I seldom go to the place I set out for,

LE PATISSIER.

VERSAILLES.

BEFORE I had got half-way down the street ; I changed my mind : as I am at Versailles , thought I , I might as well take a view of the town ; so I pulled the cord , and ordered the coachman to drive round some of the principal streets—I suppose the town is not very large , said I. The coachman begged pardon for setting me right , and told me it was very superb , and that numbers of the first dukes and marquises and counts had hôtels—The count de B...., of whom the bookseller at the Quai de Conti had spoke so handsomely the night before , came instantly into my mind—And why should I not go , thought I , to the Count de B...., who has so high an idea of English books , and English men—and tell him my story ? so I changed my mind a second time—In truth it was the third : for I had intended that day for Madame R.... in the Rue des Sts. Peres , and had devoutly sent her word by her *fille de chambre* that I would assuredly wait upon her—but I am governed by circumstances—I cannot govern them ; so seeing a man standing with a basket on the other side of the street , as if he had something to sell , I bid La Fleur go up to him , and inquire for the Count's hôtel,

La Fleur returned a little pale ; and told me it was a Chevalier de St. Louis selling *patés*—It is impossible, La Fleur ! said I.—La Fleur could no more account for the phenomenon than myself ; but persisted in his story : he had seen the croix set in gold , with its red riband , he said , tied to his button-hole—and had looked into the basket and seen the *patés* which the Chevalier was selling ; so could not be mistaken in that.

Such a reverse in a man's life awakens a better principle than curiosity : I could not help looking for some time at him , as I sat in the *remise*—the more I looked at him , his croix and his basket , the stronger they wove themselves into my brain—I got out of the *remise* and went towards him.

He was begirt with a clean linen apron which fell below his knees , and with a sort of a bib that went half-way up his breast ; upon the top of this , but a little below the hem , hung his croix. His basket of little *patés* was covered over with a white damask napkin ; another of the same kind was spread at the bottom ; and there was a look of *propreté* and neatness throughout , that one might have bought his *patés* of him , as much from appetite as sentiment.

He made an offer of them to neither ; but stood still with them at the corner of a *hôtel* , for those to buy who chose it , without solicitation.

He was about forty-eight—of a sedate look, something approaching to gravity. I did not wonder.—I went up rather to the basket than him, and having lifted up the napkin, and taken one of his *patés* into my hand—I begged he would explain the appearance which affected me.

He told me in a few words, that the best part of his life had passed in the service, in which, after spending a small patrimony, he had obtained a company and the croix with it; but that at the conclusion of the last peace, his regiment being reformed, and the whole corps, with those of some other regiments, left without any provision—he found himself in a wide world, without friends, without a livre—and indeed, said he, without any thing but this—(pointing, as he said it, to his croix)—The poor Chevalier won my pity, and he finished the scene with winning my esteem too.

The King, he said, was the most generous of princes, but his generosity could neither relieve or reward every one, and it was only his misfortune to be amongst the number. He had a little wife, he said, whom he loved, who did the *patisserie*; and added, he felt no dishonour in defending her and himself from want in this way—unless Providence had offered him a better.

It would be wicked to with-hold a pleasure from the good, in passing over what

happened to this poor Chevalier of St. Louis about nine months after.

It seems he usually took his stand near the iron gates which lead up to the palace; and as his croix had caught the eyes of numbers, numbers had made the same inquiry which I had done—He had told the same story, and always with so much modesty and good sense, that it had reached at last the King's ears—who hearing the Chevalier had been a gallant officer, and respected by the whole regiment as a man of honour and integrity—he broke up his little trade by a pension of fifteen hundred livres a year.

As I have told this to please the reader, I beg he will allow me to relate another, out of its order, to please myself—the two stories reflect light upon each other—and it is a pity they should be parted.

T H E S W O R D.

R E N N E S.

WHEN states and empires have their periods of declension, and feel in their turns what distress and poverty is—I stop not to tell the causes which gradually brought the house d'E.... in Brittany into decay. The Marquis d'E.... had fought up against his condition with great firmness; wishing to preserve, and still shew to the world some

little fragments of what his ancestors had been—their indiscretions had put it out of his power. There was enough left for the little exigencies of *obscurity*—But he had two boys who looked up to him for *light*—he thought they deserved it. He had tried his sword—it could not open the way—the *mounting* was too expensive—and simple œconomy was not a match for it—there was no resource but commerce.

In any other province in France, save Brittany, this was smiting the root for ever of the little tree his pride and affection wished to see re-blossom—But in Brittany, there being a provision for this, he availed himself of it; and taking an occasion when the states were assembled at Rennes, the Marquis, attended with his two sons, entered the court; and having pleaded the right of an ancient law of the duchy, which, though seldom claimed, he said, was no less in force, he took his sword from his side—Here—said he—take it; and be trusty guardians of it, till better times put me in condition to reclaim it.

The President accepted the Marquis's sword—he stayed a few minutes to see it deposited in the archives of the house—and departed.

The Marquis and his whole family embarked the next day for Martinico, and in about nineteen or twenty years of successful application to business, with some unlooked for bequests from distant branches of his house,

—returned home to reclaim his nobility and to support it.

It was an incident of good fortune which will never happen to any traveller; but a sentimental one; that I should be at Rennes at the very time of this solemn requisition: I call it solemn—it was so to me.

The Marquis entered the court with his whole family: he supported his lady—his eldest son supported his sister, and his youngest was at the other extreme of the line next his mother—he put his handkerchief to his face twice.—

—There was a dead silence. When the Marquis had approached within six paces of the tribunal, he gave the Marchioness to his youngest son, and advancing three steps before his family—he reclaimed his sword—His sword was given him, and the moment he got it into his hand, he drew it almost out of the scabbard—it was the shining face of a friend he had once given up—he looked attentively along it, beginning at the hilt, as if to see whether it was the same—when observing a little rust which it had contracted near the point, he brought it near his eye, and bending his head down over it—I think I saw a tear fall upon the place: I could not be deceived by what followed.

« I shall find, said he, some *other way*, »
» to get it off ».

When the Marquis had said this, he re-

turned his sword into its scabbard, made a bow to the guardians of it—and, with his wife and daughter, and his two sons following him, walked out.

O how I envied him his feelings!

THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

I FOUND no difficulty in getting admittance to Monsieur le Count de B.... The set of Shakespeare was laid upon the table, and he was tumbling them over. I walked up close to the table, and giving first such a look at the books as to make him conceive I knew what they were—I told him I had come without any one to present me, knowing I should meet with a friend in his apartment, who, I trusted, would do it for me—it is my countryman the great Shakespeare, said I, pointing to his works—& *ayez la bonté, mon cher ami*, apostrophizing his spirit, added I, *de me faire cet honneur-là.*—

The Count smiled at the singularity of the introduction; and seeing I looked a little pale and sickly, insisted upon my taking an arm-chair: so I sat down; and to save him conjectures upon a visit so out of all rule, I told him simply of the incident in the book-seller's shop, and how that had impelled me rather to go to him with the story of a little embarrassment I was under, than to any

other man in France—And what is your embarrassment? let me hear it, said the Count. So I told him the story just as I have told it the reader.—

—And the master of my hôtel, said I, as I concluded it, will needs have it, Monsieur le Count, that I should be sent to the Bastille—but I have no apprehensions, continued I—for in falling into the hands of the most polished people in the world, and being conscious I was a true man, and not come to spy the nakedness of the land, I scarce thought I laid at their mercy. It does not suit the gallantry of the French, Monsieur le Count, said I, to shew it against invalids.

An animated blush came into the Count de B....'s cheeks, as I spoke this—*Ne craignez rien*—Do not fear, said he—Indeed I do not, replied I again—besides, continued I, a little sportingly—I have come laughing all the way from London to Paris, and I do not think Monsieur le Duc de Choiseul is such an enemy to mirth, as to send me back crying for my pains.

—My application to you, Monsieur le Count de B..... (making him a low bow) is to desire he will not.

The Count heard me with great good-nature, or I had not said half as much—and once or twice said—*C'est bien dit*. So I rested my cause there—and determined to say no more about it.

The Count led the discourse : we talked of indifferent things—of books , and politics , and men—and then of women—God bless them all ! said I , after much discourse about them—there is not a man upon earth who loves them so much as I do : after all the foibles I have seen , and all the satires I have read against them , still I love them , being firmly persuaded , that a man , who has not a sort of an affection for the whole sex , is incapable of ever loving a single one as he ought.

Hé bien ! Monsieur l'Anglois , said the Count , gaily—You are not come to spy the nakedness of the land—I believe you—*ni encore* , I dare say , *that* of our women—But permit me to conjecture—if , *par hasard* , they fell into your way—that the prospect would not affect you.

I have something within me which cannot bear the shock of the least indecent insinuation : in the sportability of chit-chat , I have often endeavoured to conquer it , and , with infinite pain , have hazarded a thousand things to a dozen of the sex together—the least of which I could not venture to a single one , to gain heaven.

Excuse me , *Monsieur le Comte* , said I—as for the nakedness of your land , if I saw it , I should cast my eyes over it with tears in them—and for that of your women (blushing at the idea he had excited in me) I am

so evangelical in this, and have such a fellow-feeling for whatever is *weak* about them, that I would cover it with a garment, if I knew how to throw it on—But I could wish, continued I, to spy the *nakedness* of their hearts, and thro' the different disguises of customs, climates, and religion, find out what is good in them, to fashion my own by—and therefore am I come.

It is for this reason, *Monsieur le Comte*, continued I, that I have not seen the Palais Royal—nor the Luxembourg—nor the Façade of the Louvre—nor have attempted to swell the catalogues we have of pictures, statues, and churches—I conceive every fair being as a temple, and would rather enter in, and see the original drawings and loose sketches hung up in it, than the transfiguration of Raphael itself.

The thirst of this, continued I, as impatient as that which inflames the breast of the connoisseur, has led me from my own home into France—and from France will lead me through Italy—it is a quiet journey of the heart in pursuit of NATURE, and those affections which arise out of her, which make us love each other—and the world, better than we do.

The Count said a great many civil things to me upon the occasion; and added very politely, how much he stood obliged to Shakespeare for making me known to him

—But, *à propos*, said he—Shakespeare is full of great things—He forgot a small punctilio of announcing your name—it puts you under a necessity of doing it yourself.

THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

THERE is not a more perplexing affair in life to me, than to set about telling any one who I am—for there is scarce any body I cannot give a better account of than of myself; and I have often wished I could do it in a single word—and have an end of it. It was the only time and occasion in my life, I could accomplish this to any purpose—for Shakespeare lying upon the table, and recollecting I was in his books, I took up Hamlet, and turning immediately to the grave-diggers scene in the fifth act, I laid my finger upon YORICK, and, advancing the book to the Count, with my finger all the way over the name—*Me voici!* said I.

Now, whether the idea of poor Yorick's skull was put out of the Count's mind, by the reality of my own, or by what magic he could drop a period of seven or eight hundred years, makes nothing in this account—it is certain the French conceive better than they combine—I wonder at nothing in this world, and the less at this; inasmuch as one of the first of our own church, for
whose

whose candour and paternal sentiments I have the highest veneration, fell into the same mistake in the very same case—"He could not bear, he said, to look into sermons" wrote by the king of Denmark's jester".—Good, my lord! said I—but there are two Yoricks. The Yorick your lordship thinks of, has been dead and buried eight hundred years ago; he flourished in Horwendillus's court—the other Yorick is myself, who have flourished, my lord, in no court—He shook his head—Good God! said I, you might as well confound Alexander the Great, with Alexander the Coppersmith, my lord—It was all one, he replied—

—If Alexander king of Macedon could have translated your lordship, said I—I am sure your lordship would not have said so.

The poor Count de B.... fell but into the same error—

—*Et Monsieur est-il Yorick?* cried the Count.—*Je le suis*, said I.—*Vous?*—*Moi—moi qui ai l'honneur de vous parler, Monsieur le Comte—Mon Dieu!* said he, embracing me—*Vous êtes Yorick!*

The Count instantly put the Shakespeare into his pocket—and left me alone in his room.

A SENTIMENTAL
THE PASSPORT.
VERSAILLES.

I COULD not conceive why the Count de B.... had gone so abruptly out of the room, any more than I could conceive why he had put the Shakespeare into his pocket—*Mysteries which must explain themselves, are not worth the loss of time which a conjecture about them takes up*: it was better to read Shakespeare; so taking up « *Much ado about Nothing* », I transported myself instantly from the chair I sat in to Messina in Sicily, and got so busy with Don Pedro, and Benedict, and Beatrice, that I thought not of Versailles, the Count, or the passport.

Sweet pliability of man's spirit, that can at once surrender itself to illusions, which cheat expectation and sorrow of their weary moments!—Long—long since had ye numbered out my days, had I not trod so great a part of them upon this enchanted ground: when my way is too rough for my feet, or too steep for my strength, I get off it, to some smooth velvet path which fancy has scattered over with rose-buds of delights; and having taken a few turns in it, come back strengthened and refreshed—When evils press fore upon me, and there is no retreat from them in this world, then I take a new course—I leave it—and as I have a clearer idea of the

Elysian fields than I have of heaven, I force myself, like Æneas, into them—I see him meet the pensive shade of his forsaken Dido—and wish to recognize it—I see the injured spirit wave her head, and turn off silent from the author of her miseries and dishonours—I lose the feelings for myself in her's—and in those affections which were wont to make me mourn for her when I was at school.

Surely this is not walking in a vain shadow—nor does man disquiet himself in vain by it—he oftener does so in trusting the issue of his commotions to reason only.—I can safely say for myself, I was never able to conquer any one single bad sensation in my heart so decisively, as by beating up as fast as I could for some kindly and gentle sensation, to fight it upon its own ground.

When I had got to the end of the third act, the Count de B. . . . entered, with my passport in his hand. *Monf. le Duc de C. . . .* said the Count, is as good a prophet, I dare say, as he is a statesman—*Un homme qui rit*, said the Duke, *ne fera jamais dangereux.*—Had it been for any one but the king's jester, added the Count, I could not have got it these two hours.—*Pardonnez-moi*, *Monf. le Comte*, said I—I am not the king's jester—But you are Yorick?—Yes.—*Et vous plaisantez?*—I answered, indeed I did jest—but was not paid for it—it was entirely at my own expence.

We have no jester at court, *Monf. le Comte*, said I; the last we had was in the licentious reign of Charles II.—since which time, ours manners have been so gradually refining, that our court at present is so full of patriots, who wish for *nothing* but the honours and wealth of their country—and our ladies are all so chaste, so spotless, so good, so devout—there is nothing for a jester to make a jest of—

Voilà un persiflage! cried the Count.

THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

As the passport was directed to all lieutenant governors, governors and commandants of cities, generals of armies, justiciaries, and all officers of justice, to let Mr. Yorick, the king's jester, and his baggage, travel quietly along—I own the triumph of obtaining the passport was not a little tarnished by the figure I cut in it—but there is nothing un-mixed in this world; and some of the gravest of our divines have carried it so far as to affirm, that enjoyment itself was attended even with a sigh—and that the greatest *they knew of*, terminated, *in a general way*, in little better than a convulsion.

I remember the grave and learned Bevoriskius, in his commentary upon the generations from Adam, very naturally breaks

off in the middle of a note, to give an account to the world of a couple of sparrows upon the out-edge of his window, which had incommoded him all the time he wrote, and at last had entirely taken him off from his genealogy.

—It is strange! writes Bevoriskius; but the facts are certain, for I have had the curiosity to mark them down one by one with my pen—but the cock-sparrow, during the little time that I could have finished the other half of this note, has actually interrupted me with the reiteration of his caresses three-and-twenty times and a half.

How merciful, adds Bevoriskius, is heaven to his creatures!

Ill-fated Yorick! that the gravest of thy brethren should be able to write that to the world, which stains thy face with crimson, to copy in even thy study.

But this is nothing to my travels—So I twice—twice beg pardon for it.

CHARACTER.

VERSAILLES.

AND how do you find the French? said the Count de B...., after he had given me the passport.

The reader may suppose, that after so obliging a proof of courtesy, I could not be at a loss to say something handsome to the inquiry.

—*Mais passe pour cela*—Speak frankly; said he; do you find all the urbanity in the French, which the world give us the honour of?—I had found every thing, I said, which confirmed it—*Vraiment*, said the Count,—*les François sont polis*. To an excess, replied I.

The Count took notice of the word *excess*; and would have it I meant more than I said. I defended myself a long time, as well as I could, against it—he insisted I had a reserve, and that I would speak my opinion frankly.

I believe, *Monsieur le Comte*, said I, that man has a certain compass, as well as an instrument; and that the social and other calls have occasion by turns for every key in him; so that if you begin a note too high or too low, there must be a want either in the upper or under part, to fill up the system of harmony—The Count de B..... did not understand music, so desired me to explain it some other way. A polished nation, my dear Count, said I, makes every one its debtor; and besides, urbanity itself, like the fair sex, has so many charms, it goes against the heart to say it can do ill; and yet, I believe, there is but a certain line of perfection, that man, take him all together, is empowered to arrive at—if he gets beyond, he rather exchanges qualities, than gets them. I must not presume to say, how far this has affected the French in the subject we are speaking of—but should it ever be the case of the English, in the pro-

gress of their refinements, to arrive at the same polish which distinguishes the French; if we did not lose the *politesse de cœur*, which inclines men more to humane actions, than courteous ones—we should at least lose that distinct variety and originality of character, which distinguishes them, not only from each other, but from all the world besides.

I had a few King William's shillings as smooth as glass in my pocket: and foreseeing they would be of use in the illustration of my hypothesis, I had got them into my hand, when I had proceeded so far—

See, *Monsieur le Comte*, said I, rising up; and laying them before him upon the table—by jingling and rubbing one against another for seventy years together in one body's pocket or another's, they are become so much alike, you can scarce distinguish one shilling from another.

The English, like ancient medals, kept more apart, and passing but few people's hands, preserve the first sharpnesses which the fine hand of nature has given them—they are not so pleasant to feel—but, in return, the legend is so visible, that, at the first look, you see whose image and superscription they bear.—But the French, *Monf. le Comte*, added I, wishing to soften what I had said, have so many excellencies, they can the better spare this—they are a loyal, a gallant, a generous, an ingenious, and good temper'd

people as is under heaven—if they have a fault—they are too *serious*.

Mon Dieu ! cried the Count, rising out of his chair.

Mais vous plaisantez, said he, correcting his exclamation.—I laid my hand upon my breast, and with earnest gravity assured him, it was my most settled opinion.

The Count said he was mortified, he could not stay to hear my reasons, being engaged to go that moment to dine with the Duc de C.

But if it is not too far to come to Versailles to eat your soup with me, I beg, before you leave France, I may have the pleasure of knowing you retract your opinion—or, in what manner you support it.—But if you do support it, *Monf. l'Anglois*, said he, you must do it with all your powers, because you have the whole world against you.—I promised the Count I would do myself the honour of dining with him before I set out for Italy—so took my leave.

THE TEMPTATION.

P A R I S.

WHEN I alighted at the hôtel, the porter told me a young woman with a hand-box had been that moment inquiring for me.—I do not know, said the porter, whether she is gone away or no. I took the key of my

chamber of him, and went up stairs; and when I had got within ten steps of the top of the landing before my door, I met her coming easily down.

It was the fair *fille de chambre* I had walked along the Quai de Conti with: Madame de R.... had sent her upon some commissions to a *marchande de modes*, within a step or two of the hôtel de Modene; and as I had failed in waiting upon her, had bid her inquire if I had left Paris; and if so, whether I had not left a letter addressed to her.

As the fair *fille de chambre* was so near my door, she returned back, and went into the room with me for a moment or two, whilst I wrote a card.

It was a fine still evening, in the latter end of the month of May—the crimson window curtains (which were of the same colour of those of the bed) were drawn close—the sun was setting, and reflected through them so warm a tint into the fair *fille de chambre's* face—I thought she blushed—the idea of it made me blush also—we were quite alone; and that superinduced a second blush, before the first could get off.

There is a sort of a pleasing half-guilty blush, where the blood is more in fault than the man—it is sent impetuous from the heart, and virtue flies after it—not to call it back, but to make the sensation of it more delicious to the nerves—it is associated—

But I will not describe it.—I felt something at first within me, which was not in strict unison with the lesson of virtue I had given her the night before—I sought five minutes for a card—I knew I had not one.—I took up a pen—I laid it down again—my hand trembled—the devil was in me.

I know as well as any one, he is an adversary, whom if we resist, he will fly from us—but I seldom resist him at all; from a terror, that though I may conquer, I may still get a hurt in the combat—so I give up the triumph for security; and instead of thinking to make him fly, I generally fly myself.

The fair *fille de chambre* came close up to the bureau where I was looking for a card—took up first the pen I cast down, then offered to hold me the ink: she offered it so sweetly, I was going to accept it—but I durst not—I have nothing, my dear, said I, to write upon.—Write it, said she, simply, upon any thing.—

I was just going to cry out: Then I will write it, fair girl! upon thy lips.—

If I do, said I, I shall perish—so I took her by the hand, and led her to the door, and begged she would not forget the lesson I had given her—She said, indeed she would not—and as she uttered it with some earnestness, she turned about, and gave me both her hands, closed together, into mine—it

was impossible not to compress them in that situation—I wished to let them go ; and all the time I held them , I kept arguing within myself against it—and still I held them on.—In two minutes I found I had all the battle to fight over again—and I felt my legs and every limb about me tremble at the idea.

The foot of the bed was within a yard and a half of the place where we were standing—I had still hold of her hands—and how it happened I can give no account , but I neither asked her—nor drew her—nor did I think of the bed—but so it did happen , we both sat down.

I will just shew you , said the fair *fille de chambre* , the little purse I have been making to-day to hold your crown. So she put her hand into her right pocket , which was next me , and felt for it some time—then into the left—« She had lost it ».—I never bore expectation more quietly—it was in her right pocket at last—she pulled it out ; it was of green taffeta , lined with a little bit of white quilted sattin , and just big enough to hold the crown—she put it into my hand—it was pretty ; and I held it ten minutes with the back of my hand resting upon her lap—looking sometimes at the purse , sometimes on one side of it.

A stitch or two had broke out in the gathers of my stock—the fair *fille de chambre* , without saying a word , took out her little

housewife, threaded a small needle, and sewed it up—I foresaw it would hazard the glory of the day; and as she passed her hand in silence across and across my neck in the manœuvre, I felt the laurels shake, which fancy had wreathed about my head.

A strap had given way in her walk, and the buckle of her shoe was just falling off—See, said the *fille de chambre*, holding up her foot—I could not for my soul but fasten the buckle in return, and putting in the strap—and lifting up the other foot with it, when I had done, to see both were right—in doing it too suddenly—it unavoidably threw the fair *fille de chambre* off her centre—and then—

THE CONQUEST.

PARIS.

YES—and then—Ye whose clay-cold heads and lukewarm hearts can argue down or mask your passions—tell me, what trespass is it that man should have them?—or how his spirit stands answerable to the Father of spirits but for his conduct under them?

If nature has so wove her web of kindness, that some threads of love and desire are entangled with the piece—must the whole web be rent in drawing them out?—Whip me such Stoics, great Governor of nature! said I to myself—Wherever thy providence shall place me for the trials of my virtue—

whatever is my danger—whatever is my situation—let me feel the movements which rise out of it, and which belong to me as a man—and if I govern them as a good one—I will trust the issues to thy justice, for thou hast made us—and not we ourselves.

As I finished my address, I raised the fair *filles de chambre* up by the hand, and led her out of the room—she stood by me till I locked the door and put the key in my pocket—and then—the victory being quite decisive—and not till then, I pressed my lips to her cheek, and, taking her by the hand again, led her safe to the gate of the hôtel.

THE MYSTERY.

PARIS.

IF a man knows the heart, he will know it was impossible to go back instantly to my chamber—it was touching a cold key with a flat third to it, upon the close of a piece of music, which had called forth my affections—therefore, when I let go the hands of the *filles de chambre*, I remained at the gate of the hôtel for some time, looking at every one who passed by, and forming conjectures upon them, till my attention got fixed upon a single object, which confounded all kind of reasoning upon him.

It was a tall figure of a philosophic, serious, adust look, which passed and repassed sedate-

ly along the street, making a turn of the sixty paces on each side of the gate of the hôtel—the man was about fifty two—had a small cane under his arm—was dressed in a dark drab-colour'd coat, waist-coat and breeches, which seemed to have seen some years service—they were still clean, and there was a little air of frugal *propreté* throughout him. By his pulling off his hat, and his attitude of accosting a good many in his way, I saw he was asking charity; so I got a sous or two out of my pocket, ready to give him, as he took me in his turn—He passed by me without asking any thing—and yet did not go five steps further before he asked charity of a little woman—I was much more likely to have given of the two—He had scarce done with the woman, when he pulled off his hat to another who was coming the same way.—An ancient gentleman came slowly—and, after him, a young smart one—He let them both pass, and asked nothing: I stood observing him half an hour, in which time he had made a dozen turns backwards and forwards, and found that he invariably pursued the same plan.

There were two things very singular in this, which set my brain to work, and to no purpose—the first was, why the man should only tell his story to the sex—and secondly—what kind of story it was, and what species of eloquence it could be, which softened the

hearts of the women, which he knew it was to no purpose to practise upon the men.

There were two other circumstances which entangled this mystery—the one was, he told every woman what he had to say in her ear, and in a way which had much more the air of a secret than a petition—the other was, it was always successful—he never stopped a woman, but she pulled out her purse, and immediately gave him something.

I could form no system to explain the phenomenon.

I had got a riddle to amuse me for the rest of the evening, so I walked up stairs to my chamber.

THE CASE OF CONSCIENCE.

P A R I S.

I WAS immediately followed up by the master of the hôtel, who came into my room to tell me I must provide lodgings elsewhere—How so, friend? said I.—He answered, I had had a young woman locked up with me two hours that evening in my bed-chamber, and it was against the rules of his house.—Very well, said I, we will all part friends then—for the girl is no worse—and I am no worse—and you will be just as I found you—It was enough, he said, to overthrow the credit of his hôtel.—*Voyez-vous, Monsieur?* said he; pointing to the foot of the bed we had been

sitting upon.—I own it had something of the appearance of an evidence ; but my pride not suffering me to enter into any detail of the case , I exhorted him to let his soul sleep in peace , as I resolved to let mine do that night , and that I would discharge what I owed him at breakfast.

I should not have minded , *Monsieur* , said he , if you had had twenty girls—It is a score more , replied I , interrupting him , than I ever reckoned upon—Provided , added he , it had been but in a morning—And does the difference of the time of the day at Paris , make a difference in the sin ?—It made a difference , he said , in the scandal.—I like a good distinction in my heart ; and cannot say I was intolerably out of temper with the man—I own it is necessary , re-assumed the master of the hôtel , that a stranger at Paris should have the opportunities presented to him of buying lace and silk stockings and ruffles , & *tout cela*—and it is nothing if a woman comes with a band-box.—O' my conscience , said I , she had one ; but I never looked into it.—Then , *Monsieur* , said he , has bought nothing ?—Not one earthly thing , replied I.—Because , said he , I could recommend one to you who would use you *en conscience*—But I must see her this night , said I—He made me a low bow , and walked down.

Now shall I triumph over this *maître d'hôte*—

tel, cried I—and what then?—Then I shall let him see I know he is a dirty fellow.—And what then?—What then!—I was too near myself to say it was for the sake of others.—I had no good answer left—there was more of spleen than principle in my project, and I was sick of it before the execution.

In a few minutes the grisset came in with her box of lace—I will buy nothing, however, said I, within myself.

The grisset would shew me every thing—I was hard to please: she would not seem to see it; she opened her little magazine, laid all her laces one after another before me—unfolded and folded them up again, one by one, with the most patient sweetness—I might buy—or not—she would let me have every thing at my own price—the poor creature seemed anxious to get a penny; and laid herself out to win me, and not so much in a manner which seemed artful, as in one I felt simple and caressing.

If there is not a fund of honest cullibility in man, so much the worse—my heart relented, and I gave up my second resolution as quietly as the first—Why should I chastise one for the trespass of another? if thou art tributary to this tyrant of an host, thought I, looking up in her face, so much harder is thy bread.

If I had not had more than four *louis d'or* in my purse, there was no such thing as rising

up and shewing her the door, till I had first laid three of them out in a pair of ruffles.

—The master of the hôtel will share the profit with her—no matter—then I have only paid, as many a poor soul has *paid* before me, for an act he *could* not do, or think of.

T H E R I D D L E.

P A R I S.

WHEN La Fleur came up to wait upon me at supper, he told me how sorry the master of the hôtel was for his affront to me in bidding me change my lodgings.

A man who values a good night's rest will not lie down with enmity in his heart, if he can help it—So I bid La Fleur tell the master of the hôtel, that I was sorry, on my side, for the occasion I had given him—and you may tell him, if you will, La Fleur, added I, that if the young woman should call again, I shall not see her.

This was a sacrifice, not to him, but myself, having resolved, after so narrow an escape, to run no more risks, but to leave Paris, if it was possible, with all the virtue I entered it.

C'est déroger à la noblesse, Monsieur, said La Fleur, making me a bow down to the ground as he said it—*Et encore, Monsieur*, said he, may change his sentiments—and if (*par hasard*) he should like to amuse himself—I

find no amusement in it, said I, interrupting him—

Mon Dieu ! said La Fleur—and took away.

In an hour's time he came to put me to bed, and was more than commonly officious—something hung upon his lips to say to me, or ask me, which he could not get off; I could not conceive what it was; and, indeed, gave myself little trouble to find it out, as I had another riddle so much more interesting upon my mind, which was that of the man's asking charity before the door of the hôtel—I would have given any thing to have got to the bottom of it; and that, not out of curiosity—it is so low a principle of inquiry, in general, I would not purchase the gratification of it with a two-sous piece—but a secret, I thought, which so soon and so certainly softened the heart of every woman you came near, was a secret at least equal to the philosopher's stone: had I had both the Indies, I would have given up one to have been master of it.

I tossed and turned it almost all night long in my brains, to no manner of purpose; and when I awoke in the morning, I found my spirit as much troubled with my *dreams*, as ever the king of Babylon had been with his; and I will not hesitate to affirm, it would have puzzled all the wise men of Paris, as much as those of Chaldea, to have given its interpretation.

LE DIMANCHE.

PARIS.

IT was Sunday; and when La Fleur came in, in the morning, with my coffee and roll and butter, he had got himself so gallantly array'd, I scarce knew him.

I had covenanted at Montriuil to give him a new hat with a silver button and loop, and four louis d'or *pour s'adoniser*, when we got to Paris; and the poor fellow, to do him justice, had done wonders with it.

He had bought a bright, clean, good scarlet coat, and a pair of breeches of the same—They were not a crown worse, he said, for the wearing—I wished him hanged for telling me—they looked so fresh, that though I knew the thing could not be done, yet I would rather have imposed upon my fancy with thinking I had bought them new for the fellow, than that they had come out of the *Rue de la Friperie*.

This is a nicety which makes not the heart sore at Paris.

He had purchased, moreover, a handsome blue sattin waistcoat, fancifully enough embroidered—this was indeed something the worse for the service it had done, but it was clean scoured—the gold had been touched up, and upon the whole was rather showy than otherwise—and as the blue was not vio-

lent, it suited with the coat and breeches very well: he had squeezed out of the money, moreover, a new bag and a solitaire; and had insisted with the *frapier*, upon a gold pair of garters to his breeches knees—He had purchased muslin ruffles, *bien brodées*, with four livres of his own money—and a pair of white silk stockings for five more—and, to top all, nature had given him a handsome figure, without costing him a sous.

He entered the room thus set off, with his hair dressed in the first style, and with a handsome *bouquet* in his breast—in a word, there was that look of festivity in every thing about him, which at once put me in mind it was Sunday—and by combining both together, it instantly struck me, that the favour he wished to ask of me the night before, was to spend the day, as every body in Paris spent it, besides. I had scarce made the conjecture, when La Fleur, with infinite humility, but with a look of trust, as if I should not refuse him, begged I would grant him the day, *pour faire le galant vis-à-vis de sa maîtresse*.

Now it was the very thing I intended to do myself *vis-à-vis* Madame de R***—I had retained the *remise* on purpose for it, and it would not have mortified my vanity to have had a servant so well dressed as La Fleur was to have got up behind it: I never could have worse spared him.

But we must *feel*, not argue in these embarrassments—the sons and daughters of service part with liberty, but not with nature, in their contracts; they are flesh and blood, and have their little vanities and wishes in the midst of the house of bondage, as well as their task-masters—no doubt, they have set their self-denials at a price—and their expectations are so unreasonable, that I would often disappoint them, but that their condition puts it so much in my power to do it.

Behold—Behold, I am the servant—disarms me at once of the powers of a master—

—Thou shalt go, La Fleur! said I.

—And what mistress, La Fleur, said I, canst thou have picked up in so little a time at Paris? La Fleur laid his hand upon his breast, and said it was a *petite demoiselle* at *Monsieur le Comte de B*****'s—La Fleur had a heart made for society; and, to speak the truth of him, let as few occasions slip him as his master—so that somehow or other—but how—heaven knows—he had connected himself with the *demoiselle* upon the landing of the stair-case, during the time I was taken up with my passport; and as there was time enough for me to win the Count to my interest, La Fleur had contrived to make it do to win the maid to his—The family, it seems, was to be at Paris that day, and he had made a party with her,

and two or three more of the Count's household, upon the *boulevards*.

Happy people ! that once a week at least are sure to lay down all your cares together, and dance, and sing, and sport away the weights of grievance, which bow down the spirit of other nations to the earth !

T H E F R A G M E N T.

P A R I S.

LA FLEUR had left me something to amuse myself with for the day more than I had bargained for, or could have entered either into his head or mine.

He had brought the little print of butter upon a currant leaf; and as the morning was warm, and he had begged a sheet of waste paper to put betwixt the currant leaf and his hand—As that was plate sufficient, I bade him lay it upon the table as it was; and as I resolved to stay within all day, I ordered him to call upon the *traiteur* to bespeak my dinner, and leave me to breakfast by myself.

When I had finished the butter, I threw the currant leaf out of the window, and was going to do the same by the waste paper—but stopping to read a line first, and that drawing me on to a second and third—I thought it better worth; so I shut the win-

dow, and drawing a chair up to it, I sat down to read it.

It was in the old French of Rabelais's time, and for aught I know might have been wrote by him—it was moreover in a Gothic letter, and that so faded and gone off by damps and length of time, it cost me infinite trouble to make any thing of it—I threw it down; and then wrote a letter to Eugenius—then I took it up again, and embroiled my patience with it afresh—and then to cure that, I wrote a letter to Eliza.—Still it kept hold of me; and the difficulty of understanding it increased but the desire.

I got my dinner; and after I had enlightened my mind with a bottle of Burgundy, I at it again—and after two or three hours poring upon it, with almost as deep attention as ever Gruter or Jacob Spon did upon a nonsensical inscription, I thought I made sense of it; but to make sure of it, the best way, I imagined, was to turn it into English, and see how it would look then—so I went on leisurely, as a trifling man does, sometimes writing a sentence—then taking a turn or two, and then looking how the world went, out of the window; so that it was nine o'clock at night before I had done it—I then began and read it as follows.

THE

THE FRAGMENT.

PARIS.

—Now, as the notary's wife disputed the point with the notary with too much heat—I wish, said the notary, throwing down the parchment, that there was another notary here only to set down and attest all this—

—And what would you do then, Monsieur? said she, rising hastily up—the notary's wife was a little fume of a woman, and the notary thought it well to avoid a hurricane by a mild reply—I would go, answered he, to bed.—You may go to the devil, answered the notary's wife.

Now there happening to be but one bed in the house, the other two rooms being unfurnished, as is the custom at Paris, and the notary not caring to lie in the same bed with a woman who had but that moment sent him pell-mell to the devil, went forth with his hat, and cane, and short cloak, the night being very windy, and walked out ill at ease towards the *Pont-neuf*.

Of all the bridges which ever were built, the whole world who have passed over the *Pont-neuf*, must own, that it is the noblest—the finest—the grandest—the lightest—the longest—the broadest that ever conjoined land and land together upon the face of the terraqueous globe—

By this it seems as if the author of the fragment had not been a Frenchman.

The worst fault which divines and the doctors of the Sorbonne can allege against it, is, that if there is but a cap full of wind in or about Paris, it is more blasphemously *sacre Dieu'd* there, than in any other aperture of the whole city—and with reason, good and cogent, Messieurs; for it comes against you without crying *gare l'eau*, and with such unpremeditable puffs, that of the few who cross it with their hats on, not one in fifty but hazards two livres and a half, which is its full worth.

The poor notary, just as he was passing by the sentry, instinctively clapped his cane to the side of it, but in raising it up, the point of his cane catching hold of the loop of the sentinel's hat, hoisted it over the spikes of the ballustrade clear into the Seine.—

—*It is an ill wind*, said a boatman, who caught it, *which blows nobody any good*.

The sentry, being a Gascon, incontinently twirled up his whiskers, and levelled his *harquebuis*.

Harquebusses in those days went off with matches; and an old woman's paper lantern at the end of the bridge happening to be blown out, she had borrowed the sentry's match to light it—it gave a moment's time for the Gascon's blood to run cool, and turn the accident better to his advantage—*It is an ill wind*, said he, catching off the notary's castor, and legitimating the capture with the boatman's adage.

The poor notary crossed the bridge, and passing along the Rue Dauphine into the fauxbourg of St. Germain, lamented himself as he walked along, in this manner :

Lucklefs man that I am ! said the notary, to be the sport of hurricanes all my days—to be born to have the storm of ill language levelled against me and my profession wherever I go—to be forced into marriage by the thunder of the church to a tempest of a woman—to be driven forth out of my house by domestic winds, and despoiled of my castor by pontific ones—to be here, bare-headed, in a windy night, at the mercy of the ebbs and flows of accidents—where am I to lay my head ?—miserable man ! what wind in the two-and-thirty points of the whole compass can blow unto thee, as it does to the rest of thy fellow-creatures, good !

As the notary was passing on by a dark passage, complaining in this sort, a voice called out to a girl, to bid her run for the next notary—now the notary being the next, and availing himself of his situation, walked up the passage to the door, and passing through an old sort of a saloon, was ushered into a large chamber dismantled of every thing but a long military pike—a breast-plate—a rusty old sword, and bandoleer, hung up equidistant in four different places against the wall.

An old personage who had heretofore

been a gentleman, and, unless decay of fortune taints the blood along with it, was a gentleman at that time, lay supporting his head upon his hand in his bed; a little table with a taper burning was set close beside it, and close by the table was placed a chair—the notary sat him down in it; and pulling out his ink-horn and a sheet or two of paper which he had in his pocket, he placed them before him, and dipping his pen in his ink, and leaning his breast over the table, he disposed every thing to make the gentleman's last will and testament.

Alas! Monsieur le Notaire, said the gentleman, raising himself up a little, I have nothing to bequeath, which will pay the expence of bequeathing, except the history of myself, which I could not die in peace unless I left it as a legacy to the world; the profits arising out of it, I bequeath to you for the pains of taking it from me—it is a story so uncommon, it must be read by all mankind—it will make the fortunes of your house—The notary dipped his pen into his ink-horn—Almighty director of every event in my life! said the old gentleman, looking up earnestly and raising his hands towards heaven—thou, whose hand has led me on through such a labyrinth of strange passages down into this scene of desolation, assist the decaying memory of an old, infirm, and broken-hearted man—direct my tongue by

the spirit of thy eternal truth, that this stranger may set down nought but what is written in that BOOK, from whose records, said he, clasping his hands together, I am to be condemned or acquitted!—the notary held up the point of his pen betwixt the taper and his eye—

—It is a story, Monsieur le Notaire, said the gentleman, which will rouse up every affection in nature—it will kill the humane, and touch the heart of cruelty herself with pity—

—The notary was inflamed with a desire to begin, and put his pen a third time into his ink-horn—and the old gentleman turning a little more towards the notary, began to dictate his story in these words—

—And where is the rest of it, La Fleur? said I—he just then entered the room.

**THE FRAGMENT.
AND THE BOUQUET*.
PARIS.**

WHEN La Fleur came up close to the table, and was made to comprehend what I wanted, he told me there were only two other sheets of it, which he had wrapt round the stalks of a *bouquet*, to keep it together, which he had presented to the *demoi-*

* *Noségay.*

selle upon the *boulevards*—Then, prithee, La Fleur, said I, step back to her to the Count de B***'s hôtel, and *see if thou canst get it*—There is no doubt of it, said La Fleur—and away he flew.

In a very little time the poor fellow came back quite out of breath, with deeper marks of disappointment in his looks than could arise from the simple irreparability of the fragment—*Juste ciel!* in less than two minutes that the poor fellow had taken his last tender farewell of her—his faithless mistress had given his *gage d'amour* to one of the Count's footmen—the footman to a young sempstress—and the sempstress to a fiddler, with my fragment at the end of it—Our misfortunes were involved together—I gave a sigh—and La Fleur echoed it back again to my ear—

—How perfidious! cried La Fleur—How unlucky! said I.

—I should not have been mortified, Monsieur, quoth La Fleur, if she had lost it—Nor I, La Fleur, said I, had I found it.

Whether I did or no, will be seen hereafter.

THE ACT OF CHARITY.

PARIS.

THE man who either disdains or fears to walk up a dark entry, may be an excellent good man, and fit for a hundred things;

but he will not do to make a good sentimental traveller. I count little of the many things I see pass at broad noon-day, in large and open streets—Nature is shy, and hates to act before spectators; but in such an unobserved corner, you sometimes see a single short scene of her's, worth all the sentiments of a dozen French plays compounded together—and yet they are absolutely fine—and whenever I have a more brilliant affair upon my hands than common, as they suit a preacher just as well as a hero, I generally make my sermon out of them—and for the text—“Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia”—is as good as any one in the Bible.

There is a long dark passage issuing out from the *opera comique* into a narrow street; it is trod by a few who humbly wait for a *fiacre* *, or wish to get off quietly on foot when the opera is done. At the end of it, towards the theatre, 'tis lighted by a small candle, the light of which is almost lost before you get half-way down, but near the door—it is more for ornament than use: you see it as a fixed star of the least magnitude; it burns—but does little good to the world, that we know of.

In returning along this passage, I discerned, as I approached within five or six paces

* *Hackney-coach.*

of the door, two ladies standing arm in arm, with their backs against the wall, waiting, as I imagined, for a *fiacre*—as they were next the door, I thought they had a prior right; so edged myself up within a yard or little more of them, and quietly took my stand—I was in black, and scarce seen.

The lady next me was a tall lean figure of a woman of about thirty-six; the other of the same size and make, of about forty; there was no mark of wife or widow in any one part of either of them—they seemed to be two upright vestal sisters, unsapped by caresses, unbroke in upon by tender salutations: I could have wished to have made them happy—their happiness was destined, that night, to come from another quarter.

A low voice, with a good turn of expression, and sweet cadence at the end of it, begged for a twelve-sous piece betwixt them, for the love of heaven. I thought it singular, that a beggar should fix the quota of an alms—and that the sum should be twelve times as much as what is usually given in the dark. They both seemed astonished at it as much as myself—Twelve sous! said one—a twelve-sous piece! said the other—and made no reply.

The poor man said, he knew not how to ask less of ladies of their rank; and bowed down his head to the ground.

Poo! said they—we have no money.

The beggar remained silent for a moment or two, and renewed his supplication.

Do not, my fair young ladies, said he, stop your good ears against me—Upon my word, honest man! said the younger, we have no change—Then God bless you, said the poor man, and multiply those joys which you can give to others without change!—I observed the elder sister put her hand into her pocket—I will see, said she, if I have a sous.—A sous! give twelve, said the supplicant; Nature has been bountiful to you, be bountiful to a poor man.

I would, friend, with all my heart, said the younger, if I had it.

My fair charitable! said he, addressing himself to the elder—What is it but your goodness and humanity which make your bright eyes so sweet, that they outshine the morning even in this dark passage? and what was it which made the Marquis de Santerre and his brother say so much of you both as they just passed by?

The two ladies seemed much affected; and impulsively at the same time they both put their hands into their pocket, and each took out a twelve-sous piece.

The contest betwixt them and the poor supplicant was no more—it was continued betwixt themselves, which of the two should give the twelve-sous piece in charity—and to end the dispute, they both gave it together, and the man went away. G 5

THE RIDDLE EXPLAINED.

P A R I S.

I STEPPED hastily after him : it was the very man whose success in asking charity of the women before the door of the hôtel had so puzzled me—and I found at once his secret, or at least the basis of it—it was flattery.

Delicious essence ! how refreshing art thou to nature ! how strongly are all its powers and all its weaknesses on thy side ! how sweetly dost thou mix with the blood, and help it through the most difficult and tortuous passages to the heart !

The poor man, as he was not straitened for time, had given it here in a larger dose : it is certain he had a way of bringing it into less form, for the many sudden cases he had to do with in the streets ; but how he contrived to correct, sweeten, concentrate, and qualify it—I vex not my spirit with the inquiry—it is enough, the beggar gained two twelve-pieces—and they can best tell the rest, who have gained much greater matters by it.

P A R I S.

WE get forwards in the world not so much by doing services, as receiving them : you take a withering twig, and put it in the ground :

and then you water it, because you have planted it.

Monf. le Comte de B***, merely because he had done me one kindness in the affair of my passport, would go on and do me another, the few days he was at Paris, in making me known to a few people of rank : and they were to present me to others, and so on.

I had got master of my *secret*, just in time to turn these honours to some little account; otherwise, as is commonly the case, I should have dined or supped a single time or two round, and then by *translating* French looks and attitudes into plain English, I should presently have seen, that I had gold out of the *couvert* * of some more entertaining guest; and in course should have resigned all my places one after another, merely upon the principle that I could not keep them.—As it was, things did not go much amiss.

I had the honour of being introduced to the old Marquis de B——: in days of yore he had signalized himself by some small feats of chivalry in the *Cour d'amour*, and had dressed himself out to the idea of tilts and tournaments ever since—the Marquis de B—— wished to have it thought the affair was somewhere else than in his brain. « He » could like to take a trip to England, » and asked much of the English ladies. Stay

* Plate, napkin, knife, fork, and spoon.

where you are, I beseech you, *Monf. le Marquis*, said I—*Les Messrs. Anglois* can scarce get a kind look from them as it is.—The *Marquis* invited me to supper.

Monf. P—the farmer-general was just as inquisitive about our taxes.—They were very considerable, he heard—If we knew but how to collect them, said I, making him a low bow.

I could never have been invited to *Monsieur P*—’s concerts upon any other terms.

I had been misrepresented to *Madame de Q*—as an *esprit*—*Madame de Q*—was an *esprit* herself; she burnt with impatience to see me, and hear me talk. I had not taken my seat, before I saw she did not care a sou whether I had any wit or no—I was let in, to be convinced she had.—I call heaven to witness I never once opened the door of my lips.

Madame de Q—vowed to every creature she met, «She had never had a more improving conversation with a man in her life».

There are three epochas in the empire of a French-woman—She is coquette—then deist—then *dévot*: the empire during these is never lost—she only changes her subjects: when thirty-five years and more have unpeopled her dominion of the slaves of love, she repeoples it with slaves of infidelity—and then with the slaves of the church.

*Madame de V**** was vibrating betwixt

the first of these epochas : the colour of the rose was fading fast away—she ought to have been a deist five years before the time I had the honour to pay my first visit.

She placed me upon the same sofa with her , for the sake of disputing the point of religion more closely.—In short , Madame de V*** told me , she believed nothing.

I told Madame de V*** it might be her principle ; but I was sure it could not be her interest to level the out-works , without which I could not conceive how such a citadel as her's could be defended—that there was not a more dangerous thing in the world , than for a beauty to be a deist—that it was a debt I owed my creed , not to conceal it from her—that I had not been five minutes sat upon the sofa beside her , but I had begun to form designs—and what is it , but the sentiments of religion , and the persuasion they had excited in her breast , which could have checked them as they rose up ?

We are not adamant , said I , taking hold of her hand—and there is need of all restraints , till age in her own time steals in , and lays them on us—but , my dear lady , said I , kissing her hand—it is too—too soon—

I declare I had the credit all over Paris of unpervverting Madame de V***—She affirmed to Monsieur D*** and the Abbé M*** , that in one half hour I had said

more for revealed religion, than all their Encyclopedia had said against it—I was lifted directly into Madame de V***'s *Coterie*—and she put off the epocha of deism for two years.

I remember it was in this *Coterie*, in the middle of a discourse, in which I was shewing the necessity of a *first cause*, that the young Count de Faineant took me by the hand to the furthest corner of the room, to tell me my *solitaire* was pinned too strait about my neck—It should be *plus badinant*, said the Count, looking down upon his own—but a word, *Monf. Yorick*, to the wise—

—And from the wise, *Monf. le Comte*, replied I, making him a bow—is enough.

The Count de Faineant embraced me with more ardour than ever I was embraced by mortal man.

For three weeks together, I was of every man's opinion I met—*Pardi ! ce Monf. Yorick a autant d'esprit que nous autres.*—*Il raisonne bien*, said another—*C'est un bon enfant*, said a third.—And at this price I could have eaten and drank, and been merry all the days of my life at Paris; but it was a dishonest reckoning—I grew ashamed of it—it was the gain of a slave—every sentiment of honour revolted against it—the higher I got, the more was I forced upon my *beggarly system*—the better the *Coterie*—the more children of Art—I languished for those of Nature: and

one night, after a most vile prostitution of myself to half a dozen different people, I grew sick—went to bed—ordered La Fleur to get me horses in the morning, to set out for Italy.

M A R I A.

M O U L I N S.

I NEVER felt what the distress of plenty was in any one shape till now—to travel it through the Bourbonnois, the sweetest part of France—in the hey-day of the vintage, when Nature is pouring her abundance into every one's lap, and every eye is lifted up—a journey through each step of which Music beats time to *Labour*, and all her children are rejoicing as they carry in their clusters—to pass through this with my affections flying out, and kindling at every group before me—and every one of them was pregnant with adventures.

Just heaven!—it would fill up twenty volumes—and, alas! I have but a few small pages left of this to crowd it into—and half of these must be taken up with the poor Maria, my friend Mr. Shandy met with near Moulins.

The story he had told of that disordered maid, affected me not a little in the reading; but when I got within the neighbourhood where she lived, it returned so strong into

my mind, that I could not resist an impulse which prompted me to go half a league out of the road, to the village where her parents dwelt, to inquire after her.

It is going, I own, like the Knight of the Woeful Countenance, in quest of melancholy adventures—but I know not how it is, but I am never so perfectly conscious of the existence of a soul within me, as when I am entangled in them.

The old mother came to the door, her looks told me the story before she opened her mouth—She had lost her husband: he had died, she said, of anguish, for the loss of Maria's senses, about a month before—she had feared at first, she added, that it would have plundered her poor girl of what little understanding was left—but, on the contrary, it had brought her more to herself—still she could not rest—her poor daughter, she said, crying, was wandering somewhere about the road—

—Why does my pulse beat languid, as I write this? and what made La Fleur, whose heart seemed only to be tuned to joy, to pass the back of his hand twice across his eyes, as the woman stood and told it? I beckoned to the postillion to turn back into the road.

When we had got within half a league of Moulins, at a little opening in the road leading to a thicket, I discovered poor Ma-

ria sitting under a poplar—she was sitting with her elbow in her lap, and her head leaning on one side within her hand—a small brook ran at the foot of the tree.

I bid the postillion go on with the chaise to Moulins—and La Fleur to bespeak my supper—and that I would walk after him.

She was dressed in white, and much as my friend described her, except that her hair hung loose, which before was twisted within a silk-net.—She had, superadded likewise to her jacket, a pale green riband, which fell across her shoulder to the waist; at the end of which hung her pipe.—Her goat had been as faithless as her lover; and she had got a little dog in lieu of him, which she had kept tied by a string to her girdle; as I looked at her dog, she drew him towards her with the string—« Thou shalt » not leave me, Sylvio », said she. I looked in Maria's eyes, and saw she was thinking more of her father than of her lover or her little goat; for as she uttered them, the tears trickled down her cheeks.

I sat down close by her; and Maria let me wipe them away as they fell, with my handkerchief.—I then steeped it in my own—and then in her's—and then in mine—and then I wiped her's again—and as I did it, I felt such undescribable emotions within me, as I am sure could not be accounted for from any combinations of matter and motion.

I am positive I have a soul; nor can all the books with which materialists have pestered the world, ever convince me to the contrary.

M A R I A.

WHEN Maria had come a little to herself, I asked her if she remembered a pale thin person of a man, who had sat down betwixt her and her goat about two years before? She said, she was much unsettled at that time, but remembered it upon two accounts—that ill as she was, she saw the person pitied her; and next, that her goat had stolen his handkerchief, and she had beat him for the theft—she had washed it, she said, in the brook, and kept it ever since in her pocket, to restore it to him, in case she should ever see him again, which, she added, he had half promised her. As she told me this, she took the handkerchief out of her pocket to let me see it; she had folded it up neatly in a couple of vine leaves, tied round with a tendril—on opening it, I saw an S marked in one of the corners.

She had since that, she told me, strayed as far as Rome, and walked round St. Peter's once—and returned back—that she found her way alone across the Apennines—had travelled over all Lombardy without money—and through the flinty roads of Savoy without shoes—how she had born it,

and how she had got supported, she could not tell—but *God tempers the wind*, said Maria, *to the shorn lamb*.

Shorn indeed! and to the quick, said I; and wast thou in my own land, where I have a cottage, I would take thee to it, and shelter thee: thou shouldst eat of my own bread, and drink of my own cup—I would be kind to thy Sylvio—in all thy weaknesses and wanderings I would seek after thee, and bring thee back—when the sun went down, I would say my prayers; and when I had done, thou shouldst play thy evening song upon thy pipe, nor would the incense of my sacrifice be worse accepted, for entering heaven along with that of a broken heart.

Nature melted within me, as I uttered this; and Maria observing, as I took out my handkerchief, that it was steeped too much already to be of use, would needs go wash it in the stream—And where will you dry it, Maria? said I—I will dry it in my bosom, said she—it will do me good.

And is your heart still so warm, Maria? said I.

I touched upon the string on which hung all her sorrows—she looked with wistful disorder for some time in my face; and then, without saying any thing, took her pipe, and played her service to the Virgin—The string I had touched ceased to vi-

brate—in a moment or two Maria returned to herself—let her pipe fall—and rose up.

And where are you going, Maria? said I.—She said, to Moulins—Let us go, said I, together.—Maria put her arm within mine, and lengthening the string, to let the dog follow—in that order we entered Moulins.

M A R I A.

M O U L I N S.

THOUGH I hate salutations and greetings in the market-place, yet when we got into the middle of this, I stopped to take my last look and last farewell of Maria.

Maria, though not tall, was nevertheless of the first order of fine forms—affliction had touched her looks with something that was scarce earthly—still she was feminine—and so much was there about her of all that the heart wishes, or the eye looks for in woman, that could the traces be ever worn out of her brain, and those of Eliza's out of mine, she should *not only eat of my bread and drink of my own cup*, but Maria should lie in my bosom, and be unto me as a daughter.

Adieu, poor luckless maiden!—imbibe the oil and wine which the compassion of a stranger, as he journeyeth on his way, now pours into thy wounds—the Being who has twice bruised thee, can only bind them up for ever.

THE BOURBONNOIS.

THERE was nothing from which I had painted out for myself so joyous a riot of the affections, as in this journey in the vintage, through this part of France; but pressing through this gate of sorrow to it, my sufferings have totally unfitted me: in every scene of festivity I saw Maria in the background of the piece, sitting pensive under her poplar; and I had got almost to Lyon before I was able to cast a shade across her—

—Dear sensibility! source inexhausted of all that's precious in our joys, or costly in our sorrows! thou chainest thy martyr down upon his bed of straw—and it is thou who lifts him up to HEAVEN—Eternal fountain of our feelings!—it is here I trace thee—and this is thy *«divinity which stirs within me»*—not, that in some sad and sickening moments, *«my soul shrinks back upon herself, » and startles at destruction»*—mere pomp of words!—but that I feel some generous joys and generous cares beyond myself—all comes from thee, great—great SENSORIUM of the world! which vibrates, if a hair of our heads but falls upon the ground, in the remotest desert of thy creation.—Touched with thee, Eugenius draws my curtain when I languish—hears my tale of symptoms, and

blames the weather for the disorder of his nerves. Thou givest a portion of it sometimes to the roughest peasant who traverses the bleakest mountains—he finds the lacerated lamb of another's flock—This moment I beheld him leaning with his head against his crook, with piteous inclination looking down upon it—Oh! had I come one moment sooner!—it bleeds to death—his gentle heart bleeds with it—

Peace to thee, generous swain!—I see thou walkest off with anguish—but thy joys shall balance it—for happy is thy cottage—and happy is the sharer of it—and happy are the lambs which sport about you.

T H E S U P P E R .

A SHOE coming loose from the fore-foot of the thill-horse, at the beginning of the ascent of Mount Taurira, the postillion dismounted, twisted the shoe off, and put it in his pocket; as the ascent was of five or six miles, and that horse our main dependance, I made a point of having the shoe fastened on again, as well as we could; but the postillion had thrown away the nails, and the hammer in the chaise-box, being of no great use without them, I submitted to go on.

He had not mounted half a mile higher, when coming to a flinty piece of road,

the poor devil lost a second shoe, and from off his other fore-foot; I then got out of the chaise in good earnest; and seeing a house about a quarter of a mile to the left hand, with a great deal to do, I prevailed upon the postillion to turn up to it. The look of the house, and of every thing about it, as we drew nearer, soon reconciled me to the disaster.—It was a little farm-house, surrounded with about twenty acres of vineyard, about as much corn—and close to the house, on one side, was a *potagerie* of an acre and an half, full of every thing which could make plenty in a French peasant's house—and on the other side was a little wood which furnished wherewithal to dress it. It was about eight in the evening when I got to the house—so I left the postillion to manage his point as he could—and for mine, I walked directly into the house.

The family consisted of an old grey-headed man and his wife, with five or six sons and sons-in-law, and their several wives, and a joyous genealogy out of them.

They were all sitting down together to their lentil-soup; a large wheaten loaf was in the middle of the table; and a flaggon of wine at each end of it promised joy through the stages of the repast—'twas a feast of love.

The old man rose up to meet me, and with a respectful cordiality would have me

fit down at the table ; my heart was set down the moment I entered the room ; so I sat down at once like a son of the family ; and to invest myself in the character as speedily as I could , I instantly borrowed the old man's knife , and taking up the loaf , cut myself a hearty luncheon ; and , as I did it , I saw a testimony in every eye , not only of an honest welcome , but of a welcome mixed with thanks that I had not seemed to doubt it.

Was it this—or tell me , Nature , what else it was that made this morsel so sweet—and to what magic I owe it , that the draught I took of their flaggon was so delicious with it , that they remain upon my palate to this hour ?

If the supper was to my taste—the grace which followed it was much more so.

T H E G R A C E .

W H E N supper was over , the old man gave a knock upon the table with the haft of his knife—to bid them prepare for the dance : the moment the signal was given , the women and girls ran all together into a back apartment to tie up their hair—and the young men to the door to wash their faces , and change their sabots ; and in three minutes , every soul was ready upon a little esplanade before the house , to begin—The old man

man and his wife came out last, and, placing me betwixt them, sat down upon a sofa of turf by the door.

The old man had some fifty years ago been no mean performer upon the *vielle*—and, at the age he was then of, touched it well enough for the purpose. His wife sung now and then a little to the tune—then intermitted—and joined her old man again, as their children and grand-children danced before them.

It was not till the middle of the second dance, when, for some pauses in the movement wherein they all seemed to look up, I fancied I could distinguish an elevation of spirit different from that which is the cause or the effect of simple jollity.—In a word, I thought I beheld *Religion* mixing in the dance—but, as I had never seen her so engaged, I should have looked upon it now as one of the illusions of an imagination, which is eternally misleading me, had not the old man, as soon as the dance ended, said, that this was their constant way; and that all his life long, he had made it a rule, after supper was over, to call out his family to dance and rejoice: believing, he said, that a chearful and contented mind was the best sort of thanks to heaven that an illiterate peasant could pay—

—Or a learned prelate either, said I.

THE CASE OF DELICACY.

WHEN you have gained the top of mount Taurira, you run presently down to Lyon—adieu then to all rapid movements! It is a journey of caution; and it fares better with sentiments, not to be in a hurry with them; so I contracted with a Voiturin to take his time with a couple of mules, and convey me in my own chaise safe to Turin through Savoy.

Poor, patient, quiet, honest people! fear not; your poverty, the treasury of your simple virtues, will not be envied you by the world, nor will your vallies be invaded by it.—Nature! in the midst of thy disorders, thou art still friendly to the scantiness thou hast created—with all thy great works about thee, little hast thou left to give, either to the scitche or to the sickle—but to that little thou grantest safety and protection; and sweet are the dwellings which stand so sheltered!

Let the way-worn traveller vent his complaints upon the sudden turns and dangers of your roads—your rocks—your precipices—the difficulties of getting up—the horrors of getting down—mountains impracticable—and cataracts, which roll down great stones from their summits, and block his road up.—The peasants had been all day at work in removing a fragment of this kind be-

tween St. Michael and Madane ; and by the time my Voiturin got to the place , it wanted full two hours of completing before a passage could any how be gained : there was nothing but to wait with patience—it was a wet and tempestuous night ; so that , by the delay , and that together , the Voiturin found himself obliged to take up , five miles short of his stage , at a little decent kind of an inn by the road side.

I forthwith took possession of my bed-chamber—got a good fire—ordered supper ; and was thanking heaven it was no worse—when a voiture arrived with a lady in it and her servant maid.

As there was no other bed-chamber in the house , the hostess , without much nicety , led them into mine , telling them , as she ushered them in , that there was no body in it but an English gentleman—that there were two good beds in it , and a closet within the room which held another—The accent in which she spoke of this third bed , did not say much for it—however , she said , there were three beds , and but three people—and she durst say , the gentleman would do any thing to accommodate matters.—I left not the lady a moment to make a conjecture about it—so instantly made a declaration I would do any thing in my power.

As this did not amount to an absolute surrender of my bed-chamber , I still felt my-

self so much the proprietor, as to have a right to do the honours of it—so I desired the lady to sit down—pressed her into the warmest seat—called for more wood—desired the hostess to enlarge the plan of the supper, and to favour us with the very best wine.

The lady had scarce warmed herself five minutes at the fire, before she began to turn her head back, and give a look at the beds; and the oftener she cast her eyes that way, the more they returned perplexed—I felt for her—and for myself; for in a few minutes, what by her looks, and the case itself, I found myself as much embarrassed as it was possible the lady could be herself.

That the beds we were to lie in were in one and the same room, was enough simply by itself to have excited all this—but the position of them, for they stood parallel, and so very close to each other, as only to allow space for a small wicker chair betwixt them, rendered the affair still more oppressive to us—they were fixed up moreover near the fire, and the projection of the chimney on one side, and a large beam which crossed the room on the other, formed a kind of recess for them that was no way favourable to the nicety of our sensations—if any thing could have added to it, it was, that the two beds were both of them so very small, as to cut us off from every

idea of the lady and the maid lying together; which in either of them, could it have been feasible, my lying beside them, though a thing not to be wished, yet there was nothing in it so terrible which the imagination might not have passed over without torment.

As for the little room within, it offered little or no consolation to us; it was a damp cold closet, with a half dismantled window-shutter, and with a window which had neither glass or oil-paper in it to keep out the tempest of the night. I did not endeavour to stifle my cough when the lady gave a peep into it; so it reduced the case in course to this alternative—that the lady should sacrifice her health to her feelings, and take up with the closet herself, and abandon the bed next mine to her maid—or that the girl should take the closet, &c. &c.

The lady was a Piedmontese of about thirty, with a glow of health in her cheeks.—The maid was a Lyonnoise of twenty, and as brisk and lively a French girl as ever moved.—There were difficulties every way—and the obstacle of the stone in the road, which brought us into the distress, great as it appeared whilst the peasants ~~were~~ removing it, was but a pebble to what lay in our ways now—I have only to add, that it did not lessen the weight which hung

upon our spirits, that we were both too delicate to communicate what we felt, to each other, upon the occasion.

We sat down to supper; and had we not had more generous wine to it than a little inn in Savoy could have furnished, our tongues had been tied up, till necessity herself had set them at liberty—but the lady having a few bottles of Burgundy in her voiture, sent down her *fille de chambre* for a couple of them; so that by the time supper was over, and we were left alone, we felt ourselves inspired with a strength of mind sufficient to talk, at least, without reserve, upon our situation. We turned it every way, and debated, and considered it in all kind of lights, in the course of a two hours negociation; at the end of which, the articles were settled finally betwixt us, and stipulated for, in form and manner of a treaty of peace—and, I believe, with as much religion and good faith on both sides, as in any treaty which has yet had the honour of being handed down to posterity.

They were as follow:

First. As the right of the bed-chamber is in Monsieur—and he thinking the bed next to the fire to be the warmest, he insists upon the concession on the lady's side of taking up with it.

Granted, on the part of Madame; with a proviso, that as the curtains of that bed

are of a flimsy transparent cotton ; and appear likewise too scanty to draw close , that the *fille de chambre* shall fasten up the opening , either by corking pins , or needle and thread , in such manner as shall be deemed a sufficient barrier on the side of Monsieur.

2dly. It is required on the part of Madame , that Monsieur shall lie the whole night through in his *robe de chambre*.

Rejected : inasmuch as Monsieur is not worth a *robe de chambre* ; he having nothing in his port-manteau but six shirts and a black silk pair of breeches.

The mentioning the silk pair of breeches made an entire change of the article—for the breeches were accepted as an equivalent for the *robe de chambre* , and so it was stipulated and agreed upon , that I should lie in my black silk breeches all night.

3dly. It was insisted upon , and stipulated for , by the lady , that after Monsieur was got to bed , and the candle and fire extinguished , that Monsieur should not speak one single word the whole night.

Granted ; provided Monsieur's saying his prayers might not be deemed an infraction of the treaty.

There was but one point forgot in this treaty , and that was the manner in which the lady and myself should be obliged to undress and get to bed—there was one way of doing it , and that I leave to the

reader to devise ; protesting as I do , that if it is not the most delicate in nature , it is the fault of his own imagination—against which this is not my first complaint.

Now when we were got to bed , whether it was the novelty of the situation , or what it was , I know not ; but so it was , I could not shut my eyes ; I tried this side and that , and turned and turned again , till a full hour after midnight ; when Nature and patience both wearing out—O my God ! said I—

—You have broke the treaty , Monsieur , said the lady , who had no more slept than myself.—I begged a thousand pardons—but insisted it was no more than an ejaculation—she maintained it was an entire infraction of the treaty—I maintained it was provided for in the clause of the third article.

The lady would by no means give up the point , though she weaken'd her barrier by it ; for in the warmth of the dispute , I could hear two or three corking pins fall out of the curtain to the ground.

Upon my word and honour , Madame , said I—stretching my arm out of bed , by way of asseveration—

—(I was going to have added , that I would not have trespassed against the remotest idea of decorum for the world)—

—But the *fille de chambre* hearing there were words between us , and fearing that hostilities would ensue in course , had crept

silently out of her closet, and it being totally dark, had stolen so close to our beds, that she had got herself into the narrow passage which separated them, and had advanced so far up as to be in a line betwixt her mistress and me—

So that when I stretched out my hand, I caught hold of the *fille de chambre's*—.

END OF VOLUME II.

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A
POLITICAL
ROMANCE,
ADDRESSED

To _____, Esq;

OF YORK.

POLITICAL

ROMAN

ADDRESS

TO

OF YORK

THE
HISTORY
OF A
GOOD WARM WATCH-COAT;*

WITH which the present possessor is not content to cover his own shoulders, unless he can cut out of it a petticoat for his wife, and a pair of breeches for his son.

* This little piece was written by Mr. STERNE in the year 1759, but for private reasons was then suppressed. The recovery of this satirical performance from oblivion, as worthy of so masterly a pen, will, it is hoped, be a sufficient excuse with all lovers of literary merit, for thus bringing it to public view.

Late Parson,	Abp. HERRING.
Parson of the Parish,	Abp. HUTTON
John the Clerk,	Dean of York, FOUNTAYNE.
Trim,	Dr. TOPHAM.
Mark Slender,	Dr. BRAITHWAITE.
Lorry Slim,	LAWRENCE STERNE.
William Doe,	Mr. STABLES.

Village, York.

Author, Mr. LAWRENCE STERNE.

THE HISTORY

OF A

GOOD WARM WATCH-COAT;

A POLITICAL ROMANCE.

SIR,

IN my last, for want of something better to write about, I told you what a world of fending and proving we have had of late, in this little village of ours, about an old cast pair of black plush-breeches, which John our parish-clerk, about ten years ago, it seems, had made a promise of to one Trim, who is our sexton and dog-whipper.—To this you write me word, that you have had more than either one or two occasions to know a good deal of the shifty behaviour of the said master Trim—and that you are astonished, nor can you for your soul conceive, how so worthless a fellow, and so worthless a thing into the bargain, could become the occasion of so much racket as I have represented.—

Now, though you do not say expressly you could wish to hear any more about it, yet I see plainly enough I have raised your

curiosity ; and therefore , from the same motive that I slightly mentioned it at all in my last letter , I will in this give you a full and very circumstantial account of the whole affair.

But before I begin , I must first set you right in one very material point , in which I have misled you , as to the true cause of all this uproar amongst us—which does not take its rise , as I then told you , from the affair of the breeches ; but on the contrary , the whole affair of the breeches has taken its rise from it.—To understand which , you must know , that the first beginning of the squabble was not betwixt John the parish-clerk and Trim the sexton , but betwixt the parson of the parish and the said master Trim , about an old watch-coat , that had hung up many years in the church , which Trim had set his heart upon ; and nothing would serve Trim but he must take it home , in order to have it converted into a warm under-petticoat for his wife , and a jerkin for himself against winter ; which , in a plaintive tone , he most humbly begged his reverence would consent to.

I need not tell you , Sir , who have so often felt it , that a principle of strong compassion transports a generous mind sometimes beyond what is strictly right ;—the parson was within an ace of being an honourable example of this very crime—for no sooner

did the distinct words—petticoat—poor wife—warm—winter, strike upon his ear—but his heart warmed—and before Trim had well got to the end of his petition, (being a gentleman of a frank open temper) he told him he was welcome to it with all his heart and soul.—But, Trim, says he, as you see I am but just got down to my living, and am an utter stranger to all parish-matters, knowing nothing about this old watch-coat you beg of me, having never seen it in my life, and therefore cannot be a judge whether 'tis fit for such a purpose, or, if it is, in truth know not whether 'tis mine to bestow upon you or not—you must have a week or ten days patience, till I can make some inquiries about it—and, if I find it is in my power, I tell you again, man, your wife is heartily welcome to an under-petticoat out of it, and you to a jerkin, was the thing as good again as you represent it.

It is necessary to inform you, Sir, in this place, that the parson was earnestly bent to serve Trim in this affair, not only from the motive of generosity, which I have justly ascribed to him, but likewise from another motive, and that was by making some sort of recompence for a multitude of small services which Trim had occasionally done, and indeed was continually doing (as he was much about the house) when his own

man was out of the way.—For all these reasons together, I say, the parson of the parish intended to serve Trim in this matter to the utmost of his power. All that was wanting, was previously to inquire if any one had a claim to it, or whether, as it had time immemorial hung up in the church, the taking it down might not raise a clamour in the parish. These inquiries were the things that Trim dreaded in his heart—he knew very well, that, if the parson should but say one word to the church-wardens about it, there would be an end of the whole affair. For this, and some other reasons not necessary to be told you at present, Trim was for allowing no time in this matter—but, on the contrary, doubled his diligence and importunity at the vicarage-house—plagued the whole family to death—pressed his suit morning, noon, and night; and, to shorten my story, teased the poor gentleman, who was but in an ill state of health; almost out of his life about it.

You will not wonder when I tell you, that all this hurry and precipitation, on the side of master Trim, produced its natural effect on the side of the parson, and that was a suspicion that all was not right at the bottom.

He was one evening sitting alone in his study, weighing and turning this doubt every way in his mind, and after an hour and a

half's serious deliberation upon the affair, and running over Trim's behaviour throughout—he was just saying to himself—it must be so—when a sudden rap at the door put an end to his soliloquy, and, in a few minutes, to his doubts too; for a labourer in the town, who deemed himself past his fifty-second year, had been returned by the constables in the militia list—And he had come with a groat in his hand to search the parish-register for his age. The parson bid the poor fellow put the groat into his pocket, and go into the kitchen—then shutting the study-door, and taking down the parish-register—Who knows, says he, but I may find something here about this self-same watch-coat? He had scarce unclasped the book, in saying this, when he popped on the very thing he wanted, fairly wrote in the first page, pasted to the inside of one of the covers, whereon was a memorandum about the very thing in question, in these express words—“Memorandum. The great
» watch-coat was purchased and given above
» two hundred years ago, by the lord of
» the manor, to this parish-church, to the
» sole use and behoof of the poor sextons
» thereof, and their successors for ever, to
» be worn by them respectively in winterly
» cold nights in ringing complines, passing-
» bells, &c. which the said lord of the ma-
» nor had done in piety to keep the poor

» wretches warm, and for the good of his
» own soul, for which they were directed
» to pray, &c. » Just heaven! said the parson to himself, looking upwards, what an escape have I had! give this for an under-petticoat to Trim's wife! I would not have consented to such a defecration to be Primate of all England—nay, I would not have disturbed a single button of it for all my tithes.

Scarce were the words out of his mouth, when in pops Trim with the whole subject of the exclamation under both his arms—I say, under both his arms—for he had actually got it ript and cut out ready, his own jerkin under one arm, and the petticoat under the other, in order to carry to the taylor to be made up, and had just stepped in, in high spirits, to shew the parson how cleverly it had held out.

There are now many good similes subsisting in the world, but which I have neither time to recollect or look for, which would give you a strong conception of the astonishment and honest indignation which this unexpected stroke of Trim's impudence impressed upon the parson's looks—let it suffice to say, that it exceeded all fair description—as well as all power of proper resentment—except this, that Trim was ordered, in a stern voice, to lay the bundles down upon the table—to go about his business, and wait upon him,

at his peril, the next morning at eleven precisely.—Against this hour, like a wise man, the parson had sent to desire John the parish-clerk, who bore an exceeding good character as a man of truth, and who, having moreover a pretty freehold of about eighteen pounds a-year in the township, was a leading man in it; and, upon the whole, was such a one, of whom it might be said, that he rather did honour to his office, than that his office did honour to him—him he sends for, with the church-wardens, and one of the sidersmen, a grave, knowing old man, to be present—for, as Trim had withheld the whole truth from the parson, touching the watch-coat, he thought it probable he would as certainly do the same thing to others. Though this, I said, was wise, the trouble of the precaution might have been spared—because the parson's character was unblemished—and he had ever been held by the world in the estimation of a man of honour and integrity,—Trim's character, on the contrary, was as well known, if not in the world, at least in all the parish, to be that of a little, dirty, pimping, pettifogging, ambidextrous fellow—who neither cared what he did or said of any, provided he could get a penny by it. This might, I said, have made any precaution needless—but you must know, as the parson had in a manner but just got down to his living, he dreaded the consequences

of the least ill impression on his first entrance among his parishioners, which would have disabled him from doing them the good he wished—so that out of regard to his flock, more than the necessary care due to himself, he was resolved not to lie at the mercy of what resentment might vent, or malice lend an ear to.—

Accordingly the whole matter was rehearsed, from first to last, by the parson, in the manner I've told you, in the hearing of John the parish-clerk, and in the presence of Trim.

Trim had little to say for himself, except « that the parson had absolutely promised to befriend him and his wife in the affair to the utmost of his power; that the watch-coat was certainly in his power, and that he might still give it him if he pleased ».

To this the parson's reply was short, but strong, « that nothing was in his power to do but what he could do honestly—that, in giving the coat to him and his wife, he should do a manifest wrong to the next sexton, the great watch-coat being the most comfortable part of the place—that he should moreover injure the right of his own successor who would be just so much a worse patron as the worth of the coat amounted to; and, in a word, he declared, that his whole intent in promising that coat, was charity to Trim, but wrong to no man—that was a

reserve, he said, made in all cases of this kind : and he declared solemnly, *in verbo sacerdotis*, that this was his meaning, and was so understood by Trim himself ».

With the weight of this truth, and the great good sense and strong reason which accompanied all the parson said on the subject—poor Trim was driven to his last shift—and begged he might be suffered to plead his right and title to the watch-coat, if not by promise, at least by servitude—it was well known how much he was intitled to it upon these scores : « that he had black'd the parson's shoes without count, and greased his boots above fifty times—that he had run for eggs in the town upon all occasions—whetted the knives at all hours—caught his horse, and rubbed him down—that, for his wife, she had been ready upon all occasions to char for them ; and neither he nor she, to the best of his remembrance, ever took a farthing, or any thing beyond a mug of ale ».—To this account of his services, he begged leave to add those of his wishes, which, he said, had been equally great—he affirmed, and was ready, he said, to make it appear, by a number of witnesses, « he had drank his reverence's health a thousand times (by the by, he did not add, out of the parson's own ale)—that he had not only drank his health, but wished it, and never came to the house but asked his

man kindly how he did—that in particular, about half a year ago, when his reverence cut his finger in paring an apple, he went half a mile to ask a cunning woman what was good to staunch blood, and actually returned with a cobweb in his breeches-pocket. Nay, says Trim, it was not a fortnight ago, when your reverence took that strong purge, that I went to the far end of the whole town to borrow you a close-stool—and came back, as the neighbours who flouted me will all bear witness, with the pan upon my head, and never thought it too much ». Trim concluded this pathetic remonstrance, with saying: « He hoped his reverence's heart would not suffer him to requite so many faithful services by so unkind a return: that if it was so, as he was the first, so he hoped he should be the last example of a man of his condition so treated ».—This plan of Trim's defence, which Trim had put himself upon, could admit of no other reply than a general smile.—Upon the whole, let me inform you, that all that could be said *pro* and *con*, on both sides, being fairly heard, it was plain that Trim, in every part of this affair, had behaved very ill—and one thing, which was never expected to be known of him, happened in the course of this debate to come out against him, namely, that he had gone and told the parson, before he had ever set foot in his parish, that
that

that John his parish-clerk—his church-wardens, and some of the heads of the parish, were a parcel of scoundrels.—Upon the upshot, Trim was kick'd out of doors, and told at his peril never to come there again.

At first, Trim huff'd and bounced most terribly—swore he would get a warrant—that nothing would serve him but he would call a by-law, and tell the whole parish how the parson had misused him; but cooling of that, as fearing the parson might possibly bind him over to his good behaviour, and, for aught he knew, might send him to the house of correction, he lets the parson alone, and to revenge himself, falls foul upon the clerk, who has no more to do in the quarrel than you or I—rips up the promise of the old—cast—pair of black—plush—breeches; and raises an uproar in the town about it, notwithstanding it had slept ten years—but all this, you must know, is looked upon in no other light but as an artful stroke of generalship in Trim to raise a dust, and cover himself under the disgraceful chastisement he has undergone.—

If your curiosity is not yet satisfied—I will now proceed to relate the *battle of the breeches* in the same exact manner I have done that of the watch-coat.

Be it known then, that about ten years ago, when John was appointed parish-clerk of this church, this said Trim took no small

pains to get into John's good graces, in order, as it afterwards appeared, to coax a promise out of him of a pair of breeches, which John had then by him, of black plush, not much the worse for wearing—Trim only begg'd, for God's sake, to have them bestowed upon him when John should think fit to cast them.—

Trim was one of those kind of men who loved a bit of finery in his heart, and would rather have a tatter'd rag of a better body's, than the best plain whole thing his wife could spin him.

John, who was naturally unsuspicious, made no more difficulty of promising the breeches than the parson had done in promising the great coat; and indeed with something less reserve—because the breeches were John's own, and he could give them, without wrong, to whom he thought fit.

It happened, I was going to say unluckily, but I should rather say most luckily, for Trim, for he was the only gainer by it, that a quarrel, about some six or eight weeks after this, broke out betwixt the late parson of the parish and John the clerk. Somebody (and it was thought to be nobody but Trim) had put it into the parson's head, « that John's desk in the church » was at the least four inches higher than it » should be—that the thing gave offence, » and was indecorous, inasmuch as it ap-

» proached too near upon a level with the
» parson's desk itself ».—This hardship the
parson complained of loudly, and told John,
one day after prayers, « he could bear
» it no longer—and would have it altered,
» and brought down as it should be ». John
made no other reply, but « that the desk
» was not of his raising :—that 'twas not one
» hair breadth higher than he found it—and
» that as he found it, so he would leave
» it.—In short, he would neither make an
» encroachment, neither would he suffer
» one ».—The late parson might have his
virtues, but the leading part of his character
was not humility—so that John's stiffness in
this point was not likely to reconcile mat-
ters.—This was Trim's harvest.

After a friendly hint to John to stand his
ground, away hies Trim to make his market
at the vicarage.—What passed there I will
not say, intending not to be uncharitable;
so shall content myself with only guessing
at it, from the sudden change that appeared
in Trim's dress for the better—for he had
left his old ragged coat, hat, and wig,
in the stable, and was come forth strutting
across the church-yard, clad in a good cha-
ritable cast-coat, large hat, and wig, which
the parson had just given him.—Ho ! ho !
hollo ! John, cries Trim, in an insolent bravo,
as loud as ever he could bawl—see here, my
lad, how fine I am !—The more shame for

you, answered John seriously—Do you think, Trim, says he, such finery, gained by such services, becomes you, or can wear well?—Fy upon it, Trim, I could not have expected this from you, considering what friendship you pretended, and how kind I have ever been to you—how many shillings and six-pences I have generously lent you in your distresses.—Nay, it was but the other day that I promised you these black plush breeches I have on.—Rot your breeches, quoth Trim (for Trim's brain was half turned with his new finery) rot your breeches, says he—I would not take them up, were they laid at my door—give them, and be d—d to you, to whom you like—I would have you to know I can have a better pair of the parson's any day in the week—John told him plainly, as his word had once passed him, he had a spirit above taking advantage of his insolence, in giving them away to another—but, to tell him his mind freely, he thought he had got so many favours of that kind, and was so likely to get many more for the same services, of the parson, that he had better give up the breeches, with good nature, to some one who would be more thankful for them.

Here John mentioned Mark Slender (who it seems the day before had asked John for them) not knowing they were under

promise to Trim—"Come, Trim, says he,
» let poor Mark have them—you know he
» has not a pair to his a—: besides, you
» see he is just of my size, and they will
» fit to a T; whereas if I give them to you,
» look ye, they are not worth much; and
» besides, you could not get your backside
» into them, if you had them, without
» tearing them all to pieces »—Every tittle
of this was most undoubtedly true; for Trim,
you must know, by foul feeding, and play-
ing the good fellow at the parson's, was
grown somewhat gross about the lower parts,
if not higher; so that, as all John said upon
the occasion was fact, Trim, with much
ado, and after a hundred hums and hahs,
at last, out of mere compassion to Mark,
signs, seals, and delivers up **ALL RIGHT,**
INTEREST, AND PRETENSIONS WHATSOEVER
IN AND TO THE SAID BREECHES, THEREBY
BINDING HIS HEIRS, EXECUTORS, ADMI-
NISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS, NEVER MORE
TO CALL THE SAID CLAIM IN QUESTION.
—All this renunciation was set forth, in
an ample manner, to be in pure pity to
Mark's nakedness—but the secret was, Trim
had an eye to, and firmly expected in his
own mind, the great green pulpit-cloth, and
old velvet cushion, which were that very
year to be taken down—which, by the by,
could he have wheedled John a second
time, as he had hoped, would have made

up the loss of the breeches seven-fold.

Now you must know, this pulpit-cloth and cushion were not in John's gift, but in the church-warden's, &c. However, as I said above, that John was a leading man in the parish, Trim knew he could help him to 'em if he would—but John had got a surfeit of him—so when the pulpit-cloth, &c. were taken down, they were immediately given (John having a great say in it) to William Doe, who understood very well what use to make of them.

As for the old breeches, poor Mark lived to wear them but a short time, and they got into the possession of Lorry Slim, an unlucky wight, by whom they are still worn—in truth, as you will guess, they are very thin by this time.

But Lorry has a light heart, and what recommends them to him, is this, that, as thin as they are, he knows that Trim, let him say what he will to the contrary, still envies the possessor of them, and, with all his pride, would be very glad to wear them after him.

Upon this footing have these affairs slept quietly for near ten years—and would have slept for ever, but for the unlucky kicking bout, which, as I said, has ripped this squabble up afresh; so that it was no longer ago than last week, that Trim met and insulted John in the public town-way before a hundred

people—tax'd him with the promise of the old cast pair of black breeches, notwithstanding Trim's solemn renunciation—twitted him with the pulpit-cloth and velvet cushion—as good as told him he was ignorant of the common duties of his clerkship; adding very insolently, that he knew not so much as to give out a common psalm in tune.

John contented himself by giving a plain answer to every article that Trim had laid to his charge, and appealed to his neighbours, who remembered the whole affair—and, as he knew there was never any thing to be got by wrestling with a chimney-sweeper, he was going to take his leave of Trim for ever. But hold—the mob by this time had got round them, and their high mightinesses insisted upon having Trim tried upon the spot.

Trim was accordingly tried, and, after a full hearing, was convicted a second time, and handled more roughly by one or more of them than even at the parson's.—

Trim, says one, are you not ashamed of yourself, to make all this rout and disturbance in the town, and set neighbours together by the ears, about an old—worn—out—pair of cast—breeches, not worth half a crown? Is there a cast coat, or a place in the whole town, that will bring you in a shilling, but what you have snapped up like a greedy hound as you are?—

In the first place, are you not sexton and dog-whipper, worth three pounds a year? Then you begged the church-wardens to let your wife have the washing and darning of the church-linen, which brings you in thirteen shillings and four pence; and then you have six shillings and eight pence for oiling and winding up the clock, both paid you at Easter—the pounder's place, which is worth forty shillings a-year, you have got that too—you are the bailiff, which the late parson got you, which brings you in forty shillings more.

Besides all this, you have six pounds a-year, paid you quarterly, for being mole-catcher to the parish. Aye, says the luckless wight above-mentioned (who was standing close by him with the plush breeches on) you are not only mole-catcher, Trim, but you catch **STRAY CONIES** too in the dark, and you pretend a licence for it, which I trow, will be looked into at the next quarter-sessions. I maintain it, I have a licence, says Trim, blushing as red as scarlet—I have a licence, and, as I farm a warren in the next parish, I will catch conies every hour of the night. You catch conies! says a toothless old woman just passing by.

This set the mob a laughing, and sent every man home in perfect good humour, except Trim, who waddled very slowly off

with that kind of inflexible gravity only to be equalled by one animal in the creation, and surpassed by none.

I am,

Sir, yours, &c. &c.

P O S T S C R I P T.

I HAVE broke open my letter to inform you, that I missed the opportunity of sending it by the messenger, who I expected would have called upon me in his return thro' this village to York; so it has lain a week or ten days by me—I am not sorry for the disappointment, because something has since happened, in continuation of this affair, which I am thereby enabled to transmit to you all under one trouble.

When I finished the above account, I thought (as did every soul in the parish) Trim had met with so thorough a rebuff from John the parish-clerk, and the town's folks, who all took against him, that Trim would be glad to be quiet, and let the matter rest.

But, it seems, it is not half an hour ago since Trim sallied forth again, and, having borrowed a sow gelder's horn, with hard blowing he got the whole town round him, and endeavoured to raise a disturbance, and fight the whole battle over again—allegd that he had been used in the last fray worse

than a dog, not by John the parish-clerk; for I should not, quoth Trim, have valued him a rush single hand—but all the town sided with him, and twelve men in buckram set upon me, all at once, and kept me in play at sword's point for three hours together.

Besides, quoth Trim, there were two misbegotten knaves in Kendal green, who lay all the while in ambush in John's own house, and they all sixteen came upon my back, and let drive at me all together—a plague, says Trim, of all cowards!

Trim repeated this story above a dozen times, which made some of the neighbours pity him, thinking the poor fellow crack-brain'd, and that he actually believed what he said.

After this Trim dropped the affair of the breeches, and began a fresh dispute about the reading-desk, which I told you had occasioned some small dispute between the *late* parson and John, some years ago.—This reading-desk, as you will observe, was but an episode wove into the main story by the by, for the main affair was «The battle of the breeches and the great coat».

However, Trim being at last driven out of these two citadels—he has seized hold, in his retreat, of this reading-desk, with a view, as it seems, to take shelter behind it.

I cannot say but the man has fought it

out obstinately enough, and, had his cause been good, I should have really pitied him. For, when he was driven out of the great watch-coat, you see he did not run away;—no,—he retreated behind the breeches; and when he could make nothing of it behind the breeches, he got behind the reading-desk. To what other hold Trim will next retreat, the politicians of this village are not agreed. Some think his next move will be towards the rear of the parson's boot; but, as it is thought he cannot make a long stand there, others are of opinion, that Trim will once more in his life get hold of the parson's horse, and charge upon him, or perhaps behind him; but, as the horse is not easy to be caught, the more general opinion is, that when he is driven out of the reading-desk, he will make his last retreat in such a manner, as, if possible, to gain the *close-stool*, and defend himself behind it to the very last drop.

If Trim should make this movement, by my advice, he should be left, besides his citadel, in full possession of the field of battle, where 'tis certain he will keep every body a league off, and may hop by himself till he is weary. Besides, as Trim seems bent upon *purging* himself, and may have abundance of foul humours to work off, I think he cannot be better placed.

But this is all matter of speculation—Let me carry you back to matter of fact, and

tell you what kind of stand Trim has actually made behind the said desk: «Neigh-
» bours and townsmen all, I will be sworn
» before my Lord Mayor, that John and his
» nineteen men in *buckram* have abused me
» worse than a dog; for they told you that
» I play'd fast and go loose with the *late* par-
» son and him in that old dispute of theirs
» about the reading-desk, and that I made
» matters worse between them, and not
» better ».

Of this charge, Trim declared he was innocent as the child that was unborn—that he would be book-sworn he had no hand in it.

He produced a strong witness, and moreover insinuated, that John himself, instead of being angry for what he had done in it, had actually thanked him—Aye, Trim, says the wight in the plush breeches, but that was, Trim, the day before John found thee out. Besides, Trim there is nothing in that; for the very year that you was made town's pounder, thou knowest well, that I both thanked thee myself, and moreover gave thee a good warm supper for turning John Lund's cows and horses out of my hard corn close, which, if thou hadst not done, (as thou told'st me) I should have lost my whole crop; whereas John Lund and Thomas Patt, who are both here to testify, and are both willing to take their oaths on't, that

that thou thyself wast the very man who set the gate open—and after all, it was not thee, Trim, 'twas the blacksmith's poor lad who turned them out—so that a man may be thanked and rewarded too, for a good turn which he never did, nor ever did intend.

Trim could not sustain this unexpected stroke—so Trim marched off the field without colours flying, or his horn sounding, or any other ensigns of honour whatever.—Whether, after this, Trim intends to rally a second time—or whether he may not take it into his head to claim the victory—none but Trim himself can inform you.

However, the general opinion, upon the whole, is this, that in three several pitch'd battles, *Trim* has been so *trimm'd* as never disastrous hero was *trimmed* before.

THE END.

